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Reassess ties with Big 2

Jewish immigration is a threat to Arab world: Sheikh Sabah

AMMAN, Feb 19, (Agencies): Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah today urged Arabs to review their ties with the superpowers because of the US and Soviet role in Jewish immigration to Israel.

"I call on all Arabs to reassess their relations with the United States, the Soviet Union and East European countries in light of Soviet Jewish immigration" to Israel, said Sheikh Sabah.

"This immigration is not only a threat to Jordan, but also to the Arab world as a whole," Sabah said in an arrival statement carried by the official Jordan news agency, Petra.

He expressed support for holding an emergency Arab summit to "consult, co-ordinate and discuss with other Arab countries the threats and challenges facing the Arab nations, especially the issue of the Soviet Jewish immigration which is a very serious case."

Israeli officials say they expect about 300,000 Soviet Jews to arrive in their country over the next three years. Arab officials say they fear many of the new arrivals may displace Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel captured those territories from Jordan and Egypt in 1967.

Assembly dissolved

SRINAGAR, Feb 19: The Indian government dissolved the state assembly of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, calling it a major step towards restoring peace in a region torn by a month-long Muslim uprising against Indian rule.

Two Kashmiris were killed today when troops opened fire on a crowd attacking their convoy. (See Page 2)

NEWSWATCH

Christian leaders reach accord: Lebanon's warring Christian leaders on Monday agreed a pact to halt 19 days of fighting in which more than 630 people have been killed and 2,300 wounded, a mediator said.

Chaker Abu Sleiman, a member of a three-man committee mediating between General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militia leader Samir Geagea, made the announcement on Voice of Lebanon Radio.

The pact provides for a council of Christian leaders to rule the enclave under Aoun's command and includes a commitment to avoid force in settling disputes. (Reuters)

Secret defence mission: An Indian colonel visited France in a secret mission to discuss defence procurement, military sources said on Monday.

He bought 22 donkeys for the army's mountain regiments. (Reuters)

Guards burned to death: A Filipino who claims he was once a secret policeman locked four people in a wire cage and set them on fire during a robbery last year at a London amusement arcade, a British court heard on Monday.



Protesters dispersed: Philippine riot troops on Monday exploded teargas to disperse hundreds of leftists protesting outside the American embassy in Manila against the visit of US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney.

Outside the American Clark Air base, 30 people were hurt when truncheon-swinging police drove back students and workers throwing stones when they tried to march on the heavily guarded military base. (See Page 7)

Saddam calls on US naval forces to leave Gulf, criticises Jewish influx

BAGHDAD, Feb 19, (Reuters): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in a rare attack on the United States, has denounced its continuing naval presence in the Gulf region and said Arab states should be wary of American intentions.

Saddam said the United States should withdraw its naval forces from the Gulf, given the reduced Soviet military threat to the region and the continuing Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

"We are uncomfortable with the repeated

American statements that (Washington) will stay in the region," Iraq's official INA news agency, quoted Saddam as saying. "We have been expecting America to announce that it will withdraw."

"America is repeatedly saying (its armed forces) will remain in the region... this makes us wonder what was the real US attitude towards ending the Iraq-Iran war, whether it really wanted it to end," Hussein said in a speech published today.

Washington had indicated during the 1980-88 conflict that its warships would leave when the fighting stopped, Saddam told delegates of Arab Co-operation Council states Friday.

The Pentagon said last month that its commitment to stability in the region had not waned and that 20 of its warships, including the aircraft carriers Enterprise, were still in the Indian Ocean area.

Saddam also criticised what he called US encouragement of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. He said Arab states should forge closer ties with each other and Europe, the Soviet Union and Japan to balance American power.

Saddam said Israel might start a war against Arab states and if it did they could expect no help from other countries. He criticised Washington for giving military aid to Israel while saying it was working for peace.

Jordan's official Petra news agency said King Hussein and Sabah discussed the need for Arab "consultations and co-ordination ... on the highest levels."

Hussein has been pushing for an Arab summit to discuss Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. Other Arab leaders are seeking a summit to discuss the crisis in Lebanon.

Petra also said Sabah gave Hussein a letter from HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, praising "the national role which Jordan is leading in the region."

The agency said the meeting was attended by Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, royal court chief Zeid Bin Shaker and other senior aides to the king.

In a related development, a delegation of prominent Jordanians gave a petition to US Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth saying that the Jewish immigration to Israel "violates human rights which Washington advocates."

In an answer to a question about the resumption of parliamentary life in Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah replied: "You know that Kuwait had lived the democratic stage and parliamentary life since 1961, but there had been loopholes and mistakes in the parliamentary life."

He clarified that these mistakes had led to the dissolution of parliament twice, and pointed out that to avoid the repetition of these gaps and mistakes a study in detail is under way at present to avoid these shortcomings and to resume the parliamentary life and consolidate democracy in Kuwait.

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INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan accused of fuelling Soviet unrest

KABUL, Feb 19, (AP): The Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan has accused the United States and Pakistan of using Muslim rebels to funnel military aid to strife-torn southern Soviet republics.

Ambassador Boris Pastoukhov alleged that Washington and Islamabad had created an organisation specifically to fuel the unrest.

"We know that with the direct assistance of the US and Pakistan, the

Union of northern people of Afghanistan was created," said Pastoukhov during a news conference yesterday at the Soviet embassy.

Pastoukhov said the transport of guns, literature, drugs and money has been intensified and our forces have countered." He did not elaborate.

There was no immediate comment from the US or Pakistan governments or the Pakistan-based rebels fighting to overthrow the communist government

in Afghanistan.

Pastoukhov's comments followed reports of increased unrest in the southern Soviet republics of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Diplomats in Kabul have said the demonstrations are linked to the spread of an Islamic fundamentalist movement throughout Central Asia, but Pastoukhov disagreed.

"Those who say there is rioting, they are lying," he said. "Some hooligans have created the tension. There is no

political or ethnic reason behind these disturbances."

Pastoukhov, who was appointed ambassador to Afghanistan last fall, said US and Pakistan participation in creating the Afghan rebel organisation as "unquestionable and well-known."

He also said the Pakistan's military intelligence agency has been supporting the Muslim secessionist movement in Kashmir, a disputed region of India claimed by both predominantly Hindu

India and Muslim Pakistan.

India has accused Pakistan of arming and training the rebels a charge that Islamabad has repeatedly denied.

"I'm not saying it's the state policy of Pakistan, but some in the Pakistan secret service are supporting the Kashmir rebels," Pastoukhov said.

The Soviet ambassador disclosed that rebels planned to attack an Aeroflot airliner but the assault did not

materialise.

Pastoukhov alleged the rebels had timed the attack at Kabul airport for the arrival of a scheduled passenger flight of Aeroflot, the Soviet airline.

He had warned that should the assault have occurred and had Soviet citizens been harmed, Moscow's reaction would have been "a most cruel one."

See also Page 9

Airbus grounded, hundreds stranded

NEW DELHI, Feb 19, (Reuters): Passengers were stranded at airports across India today after Indian Airlines grounded its fleet of Airbus A320s after one crashed killing 90 people.

Most passengers, who arrived at Delhi's Palam airport for morning flights, appeared unaware of the grounding of the airline's 14 remaining A320s, announced last night.

Fury, often directed at an airline that has become notorious for routine, lengthy delays and bad service, was evident.

"We were simply told that our flight is cancelled. But no alternative arrangements have been made to fly us out," N.T. Mahajan, a Delhi business executive, told Reuters.

"There is so much uncertainty about the flights that we are not sure whether to wait or simply cancel our trip," he said.

Civil Aviation Minister Arjun Singh said the airline had grounded the aircraft after many passengers cancelled their flights on Wednesday's crash at the southern city of Bangalore.

Khan who had said previously no action would be taken until reports on the crash indicated why the A320 ploughed into the ground in perfect weather, said the Airbus would not fly again until preliminary crash reports were received.

Khan also said the airline was postponing plans to replace the four more A320s until the inquiry into the Bangalore crash was complete.

The airline was busy finding rooms for stranded passengers.

An airline spokesman said 25 passengers' flights had been cancelled. In Delhi alone an estimated 1,000 passengers were stranded.

Indian Airlines bought the A320s to meet soaring demand and the grounding of the aircraft just added to the woes of the airline as well as passengers.

Said another Delhi business man, Kamaljit Singh: "The worst we can do is wait till tomorrow. But where is the guarantee that the aircraft will be flying tomorrow or the next day?"

An announcer kept saying the A320s had been temporarily grounded. "Kindly bear with us," he said.

English businessman John Higgins was more sympathetic. "Yes, there is a lot of inconvenience. But safety comes first," he said.

Higgins said he would have to stay at least one more day in Delhi and waved a hotel voucher he collected from the airline.

The Toulouse-based European Airbus Industrie consortium expressed surprise at the Indian Civil Aviation authorities' decision to ground its fleet of Airbus A-320.

In a statement released this morning in Paris, Airbus Industrie said that there was nothing to prove that the accident was caused by some technical problem.

A team of French experts has been sent to Bangalore soon after the accident to provide technical assistance to the Indian Civil Aviation delegation, it added.

NEWSWATCH



What a mother!!

Mrs Or Thai Ngai, 32, (left) is led away by a British police officer after being remanded in custody at Billerica magistrates' court. Or Thai Ngai is charged with the murder of her four children who were found dead in their beds at their home in Essex on Saturday. The Ngais family had moved to Britain from Hong Kong seven years ago. (Reuters wirephoto)

Home-made liquor kills 23: At least 23 people died in southern India and several went blind after drinking home-made liquor, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said yesterday.

More than 100 villagers were taken ill after drinking the illicit liquor at Thattanchavadi in Tamil Nadu state on Sunday. Many of those in hospital are fighting for their lives.

One person was arrested for selling the fatal brew. (Reuters)

Sartzetakis fails to win: President Christos Sartzetakis, standing for re-election in parliamentary balloting yesterday, won 151 votes in the 300-member legislature, falling short of a two-thirds majority required to win in the first round of voting.

Sartzetakis, whose current five-year term expires in May, was the only candidate for president when parliament met to elect the head of state for the next five years.

New Democracy, with 148 seats in the legislature, abstained from voting, thus leaving Sartzetakis with just 151 votes, which he got from the two left-wing parties. (UPI)

Ex-Greek minister held pending trial: A Greek magistrate ordered former socialist alternate Economy Minister Nikos Athanassopoulos to be detained yesterday pending trial on charges of corruption, a court spokesman said.

Athanassopoulos is the first member of the former socialist government to be ordered detained pending trial.

Six ministers, including former prime minister Andreas Papandreu, have been ordered by parliament to stand trial on charges stemming from scandals that took place during socialist rule from 1981 to 1989.

The detention order was issued by an investigative magistrate.

Carlsson asked to form government: Ingvar Carlsson, who resigned last week as Sweden's prime minister when his economic policy was defeated in parliament, was asked yesterday to form a new government, the leader of the opposition said.

Carl Bildt, head of the conservative Moderate Party, disclosed that the speaker of parliament asked him last week to try to assemble a non-socialist coalition, but Bildt said he could not muster a majority or a working minority.

India govt dissolves Kashmir assembly

SRINAGAR, India, Feb 19, (Reuters): The Indian government dissolved the state assembly of Jammu and Kashmir today, calling it a major step towards restoring peace in a region torn by a month-long Muslim uprising against Indian rule.

"This is a most firm and positive step in the direction toward the goal of attaining complete normalcy," said Jagmohan, who has ruled the state on Delhi's behalf as governor for the past month.

More than 100 people have been killed in the uprising, led by militant groups that want to throw off Indian rule.

"This would knock out the very basis of the complaint that certain elements have taken to the gun because of the rigged elections in 1987," Jagmohan said in an announcement dissolving the assembly.

This was the first time an Indian government has admitted the March 1987, elections were rigged, a charge widely believed in Kashmir and a significant factor in the rapid rise in influence of the militant groups.

Jagmohan made no mention of fresh elections, which Kashmiri politicians, most of them sidelined by the outburst of violence, do not now believe would rescue the situation.

The 1987 elections brought Farooq Abdullah to power as chief minister at the head of a coalition between his own National Conference Party and the Congress party of Rajiv Gandhi, ousted from power in national elections last November.

"The events of the last month or two years had demonstrated that the state assembly could not have pretended it had a representative character," Jagmohan said. "Its catalogue of maladministration was mending."

Abdullah quit when Jagmohan was appointed governor by the new national government of Vishwanath Pratap Singh and direct rule was then imposed on the state.

"I have nothing to say," Abdullah told Reuters after Jagmohan's announcement. "Let him destroy the state as best he can."

Kashmiri politicians, who asked not to be identified, said fresh elections even a year ago might have headed off the uprising.

But they said it could be too late now unless the militants agreed. Militants ordered a boycott of the national elections and voter turnout in the Kashmir valley was under five per cent.

The groups show no interest in elections as they whip up anti-Indian fervour and crank up their fight for a re-united and independent Kashmir or to join Pakistan. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir and Islamabad now controls one-third of the Himalayan region.

At the height of the violence of the past month, there were widespread expressions of fear of a fourth war over Kashmir as the two countries snarled at each other.

India accused Pakistan of fomenting the revolt, a charge Islamabad denied. It infuriated India, which refuses to consider letting Kashmir go, by calling for self-determination for the region.

Two Kashmiris were killed when troops opened fire on a crowd attacking their convoy, police said today.

They said the incident happened yesterday evening in Bijbehara, the south Kashmir home town of Indian Home (Interior) Minister Mufi Mohammed Sayeed.

In another incident, separatists shot dead a policeman in Srinagar officials said.

CM escapes assassination

NEW DELHI, Feb 19, (Reuters): The chief minister of the north-east Indian state of Nagaland escaped a guerrilla assassination bid unhurt today, the Press Trust of India said.

The news agency said Chief Minister S.C. Jamir's driver and bodyguard were killed and his wife injured in the attack by guerrillas seeking independence. The agency said Jamir's wife was rushed to hospital, but did not indicate the extent of her injuries.



Thousands of Nepalese students march down Kathmandu streets during a rally on Feb 18. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nepal in turmoil

Police fire on crowd killing three

KATHMANDU, Feb 19, (AP): Police opened fire today on demonstrators demanding an end to Nepal's 29-year-old ban on political parties, killing three and wounding five, a government minister said.

Witnesses to the clash in Bhaktapur, near Kathmandu, said, however, that five people were killed and 12 seriously injured.

Kamal Thapa, Minister of State for Communications, said police were trying to control "extremists" and had to open fire "when the crowd tried to create an unpleasant scene. They (police) had earlier used water hoses and charged with clubs to disperse the demonstrators."

He said the situation was brought under control after two hours.

On Sunday, one policeman and three demonstrators were killed on the first day of a planned mass campaign by the outlawed Nepal Congress Party factions, to demand restoration of a multiparty system in Nepal.

The Congress Party had pledged a peaceful campaign, but Thapa said the party had lost leadership of the movement and it was in the hands of people who do not believe in non-violence.

"The situation is not grave, but certainly alarming. We are determined to suppress these extremist elements," he said.

Replying to a question on the opposition's demand, Thapa said it ran counter to the verdict of a 1980 national referendum in which the people voted in favour of continuing the partyless system.

Katmandu was largely deserted today as shops closed in line with the opposition's call for measures to back its demands.

Taxis and private buses stayed off the roads in support of the campaign, but some state-run buses and other vehicles were seen.

Student agitators burned a bus in nearby Kirtipur township and broke the windshields of a couple of others.

Thapa said 175 people had been

arrested since Sunday, and 539 others detained earlier. Four National assembly members were among those arrested, he said.

Opposition sources put the number arrested Sunday in Kathmandu alone at more than 400.

Thousands of demonstrators turned out Sunday, shouting, "We want democracy" and "down with the Panchayat system."

The partyless system was

introduced 29 years ago after the king took over the administration and dissolved the elected Congress Party-led government, which he accused of misusing power.

Five people were killed by police who opened fire on a stone-throwing crowd, residents said.

Witnesses said two people died in the spot and residents said three died in hospital after battles in the Kathmandu valley town of Bhaktapur.

Lanka denies hand

Scribe found dead

COLOMBO, Feb 19, (Reuters): The body of a Sri Lankan journalist abducted on Sunday has been found on a beach outside Colombo.

Police said today the body of Richard De Zoysa, the editor for Europe and Colombo correspondent of the Rome-based Interpress Service (IPS), was found at Moratuwa, 16 km (10 miles) south of Colombo.

"He had been shot in the neck and head" and thrown into the sea, a police spokesman said.

De Zoysa, a Sri Lankan, was grabbed from his home in a Colombo suburb early on Sunday by six gunmen dressed in police and army uniforms.

Family members said they suspected the gunmen were members of the security forces, a charge denied by the defence ministry.

The victim's mother identified the body as that of her 32-year-old son, the police said.

The body was found around 7 pm, nearly 40 hours after he was kidnapped early Sunday from his residence in Rajagiriya.

The kidnapping led to allegations by human rights activists that De Zoysa was abducted by Sri Lanka's security forces.

Barely two hours before the body was discovered, the Ministry of Defence issued a statement denying any involvement in De Zoysa's disappearance.



The perfectly preserved marble statue of a child sitting on a dolphin discovered by archaeologists at the site of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mitterrand to focus on nuke row in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Feb 19, (AP): French President Francois Mitterrand is expected to focus on a long-simmering nuclear disagreement during a four-day official visit to Pakistan that began today.

Several sources, speaking on condition they not be identified, said a settlement is likely in the 14-year-old dispute over the sale of nuclear energy facilities to Pakistan. Pakistan is pushing for the purchase of a 900-megawatt nuclear power plant.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, whose invitation spurred the first visit here by a French leader in 25 years, welcomed Mitterrand when he touched down at Islamabad's international airport at 1430 GMT.

Relations between the two nations have been strained since 1976, when France withdrew a promise to sell Pakistan a nuclear reprocessing plant, something Pakistan no longer wants.

Pakistan officials said the French government reneged on the promised sale because of pressure from Washington as Pakistan had not signed an international nuclear non-proliferation treaty and opened its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

Pakistan has several times offered to sign international nuclear treaties but only if India, its powerful and often hostile

eastern neighbour, signs as well. India has refused.

However, Benazir has reportedly agreed to open a French-supplied nuclear power plant to teams of inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Commission. Inspections would be limited to the one facility, she said.

The nuclear programmes of both Pakistan and India have been suspect and the US President must annually reaffirm his belief that Islamabad does not have a nuclear weapon before millions of dollars in loans are approved. India tested a nuclear device in the mid-1970s but denies having a nuclear weapon.

Benazir's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, opened negotiations with France in 1970.

After France reneged on the deal, Pakistan lodged a variety of complaints until a French arbitration board ruled in Islamabad's favour and ordered Paris to pay a fine. An official figure was never given but Pakistani media has carried figures ranging from \$250 million to \$400 million.

No fine was paid and Pakistan sources said Benazir's government is believed to be now asking France to supply a nuclear power plant at a discount equal to the fine.

There was no comment from the government.

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CM escapes assassination

NEW DELHI, Feb 19, (Reuters): The chief minister of the north-east Indian state of Nagaland escaped a guerrilla assassination bid unhurt today, the Press Trust of India said.

The news agency said Chief Minister S.C. Jamir's driver and bodyguard were killed and his wife injured in the attack by guerrillas seeking independence. The agency said Jamir's wife was rushed to hospital, but did not indicate the extent of her injuries.

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Sex-a-week

Yankees traditional

NEW ORLEANS, Feb 19 (AP) — US adults say they have intercourse an average of once a week, but those over 70 have sex less than once a month and one person in five claims to have abstained entirely in the past year, according to a survey released yesterday.

The findings, based on a long-running survey of 1,500 households across the country, suggest that Americans are not as sexually adventurous as they are often portrayed.

"This shows that the sexual behaviour of Americans is more circumspect and traditional than the libertine impression we get from the popular media and fiction," said Tom W. Smith of the University of Chicago, who directed the survey.

A separate survey found that teen-age boys are also less sexually active than their image would imply. It found that adolescents seem to be having sex less often, with fewer girls and at a later age than teenagers did a decade ago.

"This contrasts sharply with the view that most young men are sexually promiscuous," said Freda L. Sonenstein of the Urban Institute in Washington, who analysed the results.

Both reports were among sex surveys outlined at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The University of Chicago results were based on interviews and questionnaires administered to a cross-section of adults in 1988 and 1989. The questions were added to the general social survey, which has been conducted annually since 1972.

Surprisingly little is known about the sex lives of ordinary Americans, said Smith.

His survey found that on average, adults have sex 57 times a year, or about once a week.

"We don't know what night of the week," he said, "but it sounds like the traditional stereotype of every Saturday night."

Sexual frequency dropped with age from about 78 times a year for those under 40 to eight times for those over 70. Overall, married people have sex 67 times a year, separated people 66 times, divorced and never-married people 55 and widowed people six.

However, 22 per cent of people said they had no sex partners at all during the previous year. Nine per cent of married people were abstinent, as were 86 per cent of widowed people.

The study also found that 7 per cent of adults are at relatively high risk of catching AIDS because they have multiple sex partners, have sex with strangers or are homosexual.

Smith said some people probably lied about their sex habits, especially unmarried men, who seemed to inflate the vigour of their sex lives, and unmarried women, who claimed to experience less sex than they actually were having. But in general, he said he had "reasonable confidence" in the data.

American teen-age boys are paying close attention to the AIDS epidemic and as a result their coming age has tripled over the past decade, according to a survey reported on Sunday in New Orleans.

VERO BEACH, Florida: The attention of Britain's Prince Charles shifts from sports to space on Monday when he tours the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral.

Plans call for the Prince of Wales to tour NASA facilities and the space shuttle launch pad Monday while a British film crew shoots footage for an upcoming documentary.

The space-age atmosphere at Cape Canaveral is a striking contrast to the Prince's weekend activities of polo and discussions on saving East Africa's environment and endangered animals.

On Sunday, prior to a championship polo match, the prince spoke at a fund-raising luncheon for a conservation group he helps sponsor. (AP)

WASHINGTON: Moments after the curtain fell on his performance in a Verdi opera at the Kennedy Centre, Soviet tenor Vladimir Popov played the leading role in an emotional backstage citizenship drama.

"This is the greatest day in my life," declared Popov, who fell to his knees, crossed himself and grinned broadly after he received his US citizenship papers from Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

Popov, 42, the son of a retired Soviet army general, defected in 1982 to Milan, Italy, while on leave from the Bolshoi Opera to study at La Scala.

On Saturday night, Popov sang with Prima Donna Aprile Millo in the Washington opera's first production of the Giuseppe Verdi spectacular, *Aida* before a sold-out audience in the Kennedy Centre Opera House. (AP)

HERGISWIL, Switzerland: Sophia Loren and husband Carlo Ponti have found a new residence in this village after having to quit the tiny apartment listed for tax reasons as their official home.

Their landlord, Alois Bleitler, confirmed Thursday he gave the couple notice to leave the furnished two rooms plus kitchen and bath because his daughter wanted to move in.

"They hardly ever saw the place anyway," Bleitler said. Village secretary Ernst Mader said the couple easily found a new, equally modest home in the village, which has a population of 4,000.

Fan letters to the new address are unlikely to be answered because their visits there are expected to be equally rare.

The Zurich tabloid *Blick* said Thursday the couple set up base in the low-tax Swiss Canton of Nidwalden more than 30 years ago and moved to Hergiswil six years ago.

Blick said that Ponti pays about \$33,000 a year in taxes under a lump-sum deal negotiated with Canton tax authorities. (AP)



Kiss and pat

Left: Britain's Prince Charles gets rose and a kiss from Anna Lindberg after she ran onto the polo field carrying a union jack. Right: the Prince of Wales leans over to pat and wink at her prior to his polo match in Vero Beach, USA. The animal was shown to prince by Mrs Geoffrey Kent (centre) co-founder of a group called The Friends of Conservation. (Reuters wirephoto)



King and Queen of pop

Rock star Phil Collins (left) and Annie Lennox were crowned King and Queen of British pop music in the second year running during a ceremony in London yesterday. Collins and Lennox were named male and female vocalists in the Brits 1990 Awards. (Reuters wirephoto)

'The Raw and the Cooked' — best album

Fine Young Cannibals named UK Group of the Year

LONDON, Feb 19 (AP) — The pop band Fine Young Cannibals was named Best British Group of the Year in London last night but missed the ceremony because they are in Los Angeles rehearsing for the US Grammy awards on Wednesday.

The group's million-selling album, "The Raw and the Cooked," also won the award for the best album by a British artist or group. The Brits 1990 awards were organised by the British Phonographic Industry, which is

giving to a music charity the unspecified proceeds from the ceremony and from a TV recording of it.

Presenior Jonathan King said the recording had been sold in advance to 50 countries and had a potential audience of 800 million.

US singer Neneh Cherry was named best international newcomer and best international artist at the announcement of the pop awards in London's 2,000-seat Dominion Theatre.

Ms Cherry, who has been on the music scene for only one year and had chart success with the singles "Man Child" and "Kisses On The Wind," had to beat off Tina Turner among rival nominees.

Phil Collins, 39, and Annie Lennox, 35, were named best male and female vocalists — the king and queen of British pop. It was the third win for Collins and the fourth for Ms Lennox, who sings with the Eurythmics.

Collins' song "Another Day In Paradise" was named best of the year in a poll among British Broadcasting Corp. radio listeners.

The Irish band U2 was named best international group and "Batman" the best film soundtrack or original cast recording.

British male group Queen received a special award for their outstanding 20-year contribution to the music industry in which they have broken Box Office and sales records worldwide.

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania: A scratchy throat limited Paul McCartney's vocal range, but it did not matter to fans who had waited more than a quarter-century for the former Beatle to return to Pittsburgh.

McCartney performed Sunday at a sold-out show before some of the same fans who chanted "Paul, Paul, Paul" during the Beatles' only local appearance in September 1964.

McCartney's cold affected his upper range on songs such as *Jet* and *Got To Get You Into My Life*. He also trimmed about 15 minutes from Sunday's show, eliminating *Band on the Run*, *Maybe I'm Amazed* and *Ain't That A Shame* from his set list.

But fans who waved signs reading "Paul Rules" hardly noticed as they sang along with Beatles' standards such as *Let It Be*, *Yesterday* and *Back to the USSR*. (AP)

NEW YORK: The eldest son of New York State's Governor Mario Cuomo plans to marry a daughter of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy, linking two of the most influential liberal families in the United States.

Ethel Kennedy on Thursday announced the engagement of her daughter, Kerry, to Andrew Cuomo, and Governor Cuomo said the whole family was "very, very pleased" about the union.

The two said they would marry sometime this spring or early summer. "Kerry is a wonderful, wonderful young lady. We know her. We love her and we couldn't be happier," the governor said.

Noting Andrew's age, he said: "For those of us who went into marriage from puberty, 32 is kind of delaying it for quite some time." (AP)

PENSACOLA, Florida: The deaths of 11 bottlenose dolphins during the past month in waters near the Florida-Alabama line has mystified a scientist who examined the carcasses.

"Eleven in one month is historic, if not significant," said Gerald Regan, a biology professor at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, and a member of the National Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

Until now, an average of only 12 dead dolphins during an entire year has turned up in Perdido Bay, which separates Alabama from the Florida panhandle, and in adjacent waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Regan said Saturday.

The cause of the deaths hasn't been determined, Regan said he is

awaiting an analysis of lung samples sent to the sea world research institute in Orlando before drawing any conclusions.

Some members of local environmental group said pollution killed the dolphins.

The Lillian, Alabama-based Perdido Bay Environmental Association is collecting donations to pay for the laboratory tests on the dead dolphins, said group vice-president Jo Ann Allen. (AP)

CHARLESTON, South Carolina: Most of the bald eagles that lost their nests when hurricane Hugo swept through South Carolina last fall have rebuilt their homes, a wildlife expert says.

Eighteen of 34 eagle pairs whose nests were destroyed have rebuilt

them, nearly all near their old nests. Thirty other eagles' nests remained intact after the hurricane.

But Tom Murphy, an eagle specialist with the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, said that some of the trees in which nests lie "are not very good nest trees."

NEW YORK: It is bad enough when Engelbert Humperdinck looks in his closet. It is even worse when he talks to his attorney.

"I've got more paternity suits than leisure suits," the British singer says in an interview airing Monday on the *Joan Rivers Show*.

Humperdinck admits that he has fooled around on his wife "a lot" — so much so that he feels bad about it. (AP)

'No smoking' sign to flash on for good

WASHINGTON, Feb 19 (Reuters) — "No smoking" signs flash on permanently for millions of passengers on US airlines next Sunday when lighting up becomes illegal on nearly every domestic American flight.

Diehard smokers can try nicotine gum, pills or will-power — suggestions that may or may not be all that helpful — but come Feb 25 puffing will be banned by law on all flights within the United States except those very few that last six hours or longer to or from Hawaii or Alaska.

That takes in about two dozen of the nearly 18,000 runs airlines make daily between American cities. And even some of those six-hour-plus marathons will be made non-smoking by decision of the airline involved.

Smoking will still be allowed on foreign-carrier flights to or from the United States and US-flag flights abroad — but foreign airlines will have to observe the smoke-free law on flights between US cities.

The expanded no-smoking law was passed by the US congress last November, fairly easily and after surprisingly little debate.

It replaced a 1988 smoking ban on flights of two hours or less, which had stirred some bitter debate on Capitol Hill and strong opposition from tobacco interests.

Flights to Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands are included in the broader new ban and some airlines are also extending it voluntarily to their foreign routes to Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

"I think most smokers will have no problem complying with the new rule, especially since they will be given adequate notice about it going into effect," Dr Ronald Davis of the federal office on smoking and health said in an interview.

"Most of the significant withdrawal symptoms occur only after five or six hours. There will be a small percentage who will have problems with the new policy."

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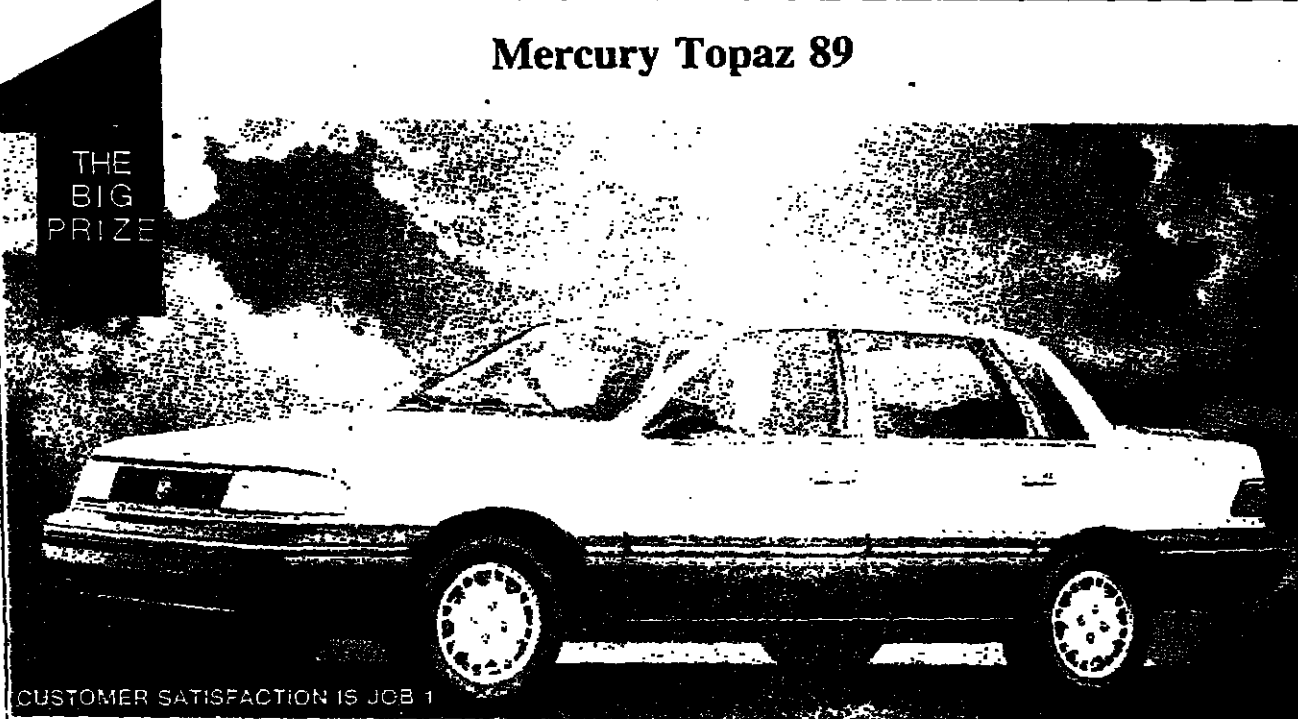
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America long knew of Noriega crimes

Murders, trafficking was ignored: Life reports

NEW YORK, Feb 19, (Reuters): The US government knew of crimes by toppled Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega including murder and drug trafficking but ignored them because of his usefulness to US intelligence, Life magazine reported today.

The report, by prize-winning reporter Seymour Hersh, said US investigators groups concluded Noriega was responsible for the deaths in separate 1981 airplane crashes of his predecessor and mentor Omar Torrijos and Ecuadorian President Jaime Roldos.

It quoted a former senior Reagan administration intelligence official

as saying of the Roldos death, "there was no question that it was not an accident, and it was Noriega." The motive was not known, he said.

The United States paid Noriega more than \$100,000 a year while overlooking his rampant corruption, the Life report said.

It said after Washington finally began moving against him in 1987 — partly as a reaction to growing protests from Panamanian citizens and increasingly critical press coverage — he stayed a jump ahead, aided by an unprecedented and previously unreported penetration of American communications intelligence.

Torrijos Remains moved

PANAMA CITY, Feb 19, (AP): The remains of Gen. Omar Torrijos, the former Panamanian leader who died in a 1981 plane crash, have been moved to avoid desecration, a family member said yesterday.

The Torrijos family has said it was worried that Panama's new government might eliminate the mausoleum where the remains had been held, although the government has denied having any such plans.

The leadership of the present government dislikes Torrijos, who seized power in a coup and kept a tight personal grip on Panama's military, economic and political affairs. But he remains popular with many Panamanians.

Torrijos' remains were dug up Saturday from the mausoleum at Fort Amador, a joint US-Panamanian facility, and placed in a crypt at the national shrine alongside the cremated remains of his parents.

Raquel Torrijos, daughter of the military leader, said she decided to move her father's remains "to avoid desecration of his tomb."

On Oct 11, 1968, Torrijos overthrew the elected government of Arnulfo Arias. He is remembered for the Panama Canal treaties he signed in 1977 with former US President Jimmy Carter.



Riding high

President George Bush's approval rating soared to 78 per cent in the latest Time magazine survey released Sunday.

It is the highest popularity rating accorded any president since John F. Kennedy in his first year, Time said. The boost in the public rating was a result of what the magazine called "peace, prosperity and Panama."

In addition, the Feb 26th issue also said Bush's rating shows no sign of abating.

The Time/CNN poll of 500 adults was conducted by Feb 14 by Yankelovich Clancy Shulman. Sampling error is estimated at plus or minus 4.5 per cent, said Time spokesman.

Latam sliding into dark age

Gloomy future predicted

WASHINGTON, Feb 19, (Reuters): Latin America is sliding into a new dark age. The region's prospects have never been so dismal. Its decade of democracy has been a decade of disillusion.

After years of cautious optimism, US experts of Latin America have begun predicting a bleak future for their southern neighbours despite democratic advances in the 1980s that saw one military dictatorship after another replaced by elected governments.

The end of the cold war and momentous changes in Eastern Europe are helping to make Latin America irrelevant, scholars say, and will hasten an economic decline there which, in turn, threatens democracy.

"Much of Latin America seems headed toward the failure of democracy and a plunge into a new dark age," says David Ronfeldt, a political scientist at the Rand Corporation, a California think tank. "Its hallmarks will be... violence and chaos under a new generation of dictators."

Some of the United States' most eminent specialists in Latin American affairs express similar views and, although conservatives tend to be more gloomy than liberals, pessimism runs across the political spectrum.

"As a long-time student of Latin America, I have never seen the prospects so dismal," said Howard Wiarda, a political science professor at the University of Massachusetts. "Both the future of Latin America and of US relations with the hemisphere look very cloudy."

One of the chief reasons for the experts' pessimism is the failure of democratic governments to repair their countries' troubled economies and fulfill the hopes raised by free elections.

"The decade of democracy has been a decade of disillusion," according to Douglas Payne, director of hemispheric studies at Freedom House in New York. "The triumph of the ballot box has yet to bring relief from sharply falling living standards."

In the experts' view, the problems of most Latin American countries — Mexico and a few others excepted — will be aggravated as the United States and the Soviet Union disengage from the region politically and economically.

With superpower interest and aid focused on the economies of Eastern Europe, the argument goes, assistance to Latin America will dry up, compounding the region's difficulties.

"If the industrialised world turns away, Latin America is going to deteriorate and there will be a throwback to the brutality of the past," said Larry Birns, director of the liberal council of hemispheric affairs in Washington.

"Latin American democracy is broad, but not deep, and the military are waiting in the wings. In many countries people are beginning to look at the military past with nostalgia."

According to Mark Falcoff of the Conservative American Enterprise Institute, the security concerns that governed US policy in Latin America in the past no longer apply and, therefore, Washington could leave the region to its own devices.

"It is implicit in the day-to-day conduct of US policy that the two halves of the (Western) hemisphere have split and are drifting apart," he said.

Taking an even dimmer view of US-Latin relations, Wiarda asserted that Washington viewed Latin America as a "black hole" for US aid programmes and had all but given up on the region.

The sense is strong among high officials that Latin America has become like sub-Saharan Africa — a hopeless region that... is very low on our priorities and that has no intrinsic worth or value," Wiarda said.

Susan Kaufman Purcell of the Americas Society in New York predicted that diminished security concerns would result in the United States returning to a policy of "benign neglect" of Latin America.

According to Kaufman, one of the problems in US-Latin relations, now and in the future, is that "the American public sees Latin America with negative things — drugs, refugees, environmental destruction."

Peter Hakin, a political moderate and director of the organisation called Inter-American Dialogue, disagrees with the gloom-and-doom scenario of some of his more conservative colleagues but he agrees that much of Latin America is heading for troubled times.

He cited Argentina as a prime example of a country where successive governments have been unable to implement coherent economic reforms and said the administration of President Carlos Menem was rapidly losing credibility.

"Some countries will do well," Hakin said, "but others won't. Those likely to do well are Mexico, Chile, Uruguay and Costa Rica."

Those for whom US experts see the least hope include Peru, Colombia, Argentina and El Salvador.

Rand's Ronfeldt asserted that the superpowers' disengagement from Latin America could result in more bloodshed.

Issue not dead: Bennett

No blockade

WASHINGTON, Feb 19, (UPI): US drug policy director William Bennett said yesterday that the Bush administration is still considering using naval surveillance off the coast of Colombia to combat the flow of drugs into the United States.

In an interview on the NBC television network, Bennett repeated administration denials that the United States last month planned to send a US aircraft carrier to patrol for drugs off the coast of Colombia.

"There were no such plans, no such plans, no blockade," Bennett said. "That's baloney."

When asked, however, if he supported a greater role for the US military in the war against drugs, Bennett replied, "you bet."

Other administration officials have said privately that the plan to use naval surveillance had been placed on hold indefinitely

and that they would not proceed unless they had Colombian approval.

"That is not a 'dead issue'... provided we get the issue right," Bennett said on the US television network.

"There is now and I think there will be," Bennett said.

Bennett took great pains to clarify that any naval surveillance would not include a blockade. That characterisation of last month's plan to send a naval task force to patrol the international waters off Colombia infuriated the Colombian government and forced the administration to back off.

"I would not be surprised if, in the future, we have discussions with (Colombian President Virgilio) Barco and other presidents about the ways in which US military intelligence and others can be useful to them," Bennett said.

Salvador guerrillas attack power plant, bomb store

SAN SALVADOR, Feb 19, (Reuters): Leftist Salvadoran rebels attacked a power plant with mortar fire, briefly plunging the capital into darkness early yesterday in an attack branded a publicity stunt by President Alfredo Cristiani.

A security guard was injured around midnight when guerrillas lobbed mortars and grenades on the San Antonio Abad power sub-station, temporarily knocking out power in the capital, Col Orlando Carranza, head of the local Bellosa Battalion, told Reuters.

Two transformers were lightly damaged, but the fierce-sounding combat with strafing and rocketing by military helicopters was characterised by Carranza as "mostly just a lot of noise."

Cristiani branded the attack as a publicity stunt, but he said such operations would have to stop before the government would renew peace talks with the rebels.

A UN envoy for Central America, Alvaro de Soto, met with Cristiani and guerrilla representatives based in Mexico City last

week to try to arrange talks to end the 10-year-old civil war.

"The latest that we are aware of is that the (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) FMLN have had two weeks to analyse (the) proposal," Cristiani told a news conference at the airport before leaving on an official visit to Taiwan.

The armed forces press office also said a powerful bomb planted by rebels ripped through a downtown furniture store early yesterday morning causing serious damage but no casualties.



Ortega greets supporters in Leon. (Reuters wirephoto)



Chamorro waves out to crowds during a closing rally in Managua. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rebels to release Americans

MEDELLIN, Feb 19, (Reuters): Three Americans kidnapped by leftist rebels to protest against US President George Bush's visit to Colombia last week will be freed "within the next few hours," rebel sources said yesterday.

They quoted Jose Perez Martinez, leader of the rebel National Liberation Army (ELN), as saying the Americans would be released unharmed last night.

The sources, who requested anonymity, said Perez Martinez, a defrocked Spanish priest who took up arms against the Colombian government more than 20 years ago, did not specify where the Americans would be freed.

The ELN kidnapped American businessman James Arthur Donnelly on Monday and seized American teacher David Leslie Kent on Tuesday in Medellin, the headquarters of Colombia's most powerful cocaine cartel.

An American priest, the revered Francisco Antonio Amico Ferrari, was kidnapped on Thursday in Cali, home of a rival drug cartel.

In his remarks on Sunday, according to the rebel sources, Perez Martinez asserted the ELN's responsibility for all three abductions and said they were carried out to protest against Bush's participation in last Thursday's drug summit in the Caribbean port city of Cartagena.

Nicaragua poll campaign ends

Massive UNO rally

MANAGUA, Feb 19, (AP): The United National Opposition closed its election campaign yesterday with the largest anti-government rally of the past decade, and its presidential candidate promised peace to Central America if he wins.

UNO, as the coalition of 14 political parties and one native Indian organisation is known, is the leading challenger to the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front in general elections Feb 25.

"On this bright day, which announces the end of the dark night of Sandinismo, I raise my flag of national reconciliation," UNO presidential candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro told a crowd of about 60,000.

Mrs Chamorro repeated her campaign promises to end the military draft, rebuild the economy and cut the size of the Nicaraguan army, now the largest in Central America.

"Next Sunday, the 25th, the vote of the people is going to knock down the wall of shame, as the German people did with the Berlin Wall," she told cheering supporters gathered at the Plaza of the Revolution.

Mrs Chamorro is challenging president Daniel Ortega for a six-year term in the election, which has been called a referendum on 10 years of Sandinista rule.

The rally Sunday was the largest the UNO has held, but organisers complained that Sandinista officials refused to allow entry of a sound system rented in neighbouring Costa Rica and that authorities reportedly blocked or harassed supporters coming from provincial towns.

International observers interceded with the government on behalf of UNO to allow the sound system but were unable to

persuade the government to change its mind.

Police in full riot gear were in evidence throughout Managua since Saturday night. Police jeeps outfitted with batteries of tear-gas grenade launchers were lined up in a government parking lot Sunday, in full view of opposition supporters, most of whom had to go past the lot on the way to the Plaza.

Public transport was scarce or non-existent throughout Managua on Sunday morning, perhaps in an attempt to cut down attendance at the rally. Some people admitted they did not attend the rally because they feared trouble or did not have any way to get there.

"They (police) stopped our caravan outside Masaya," a town 30 minutes from Managua, said one man at the rally, who would only give his first name, Santos. "They kept us there for a long time, and people were getting angry. They finally let us go, but one truck at a time, very slowly."

Mrs Chamorro's running mate, Virgilio Godoy, said the crowd numbered about 200,000, but international observers and several experienced journalists agreed on an estimate of 60,000.

Mrs Chamorro, publisher of the opposition newspaper La Prensa, extended an olive branch to the armed forces, saying no soldier would be left jobless despite her intent to reduce the army's size.

"And to my dear friends in Central America... I assure them that with the internal peace of Nicaragua, Central America also will have peace," she said.

Under a UNO government, she said, soldiers would be retrained for civilian jobs.

Violent crime rising in US

DRYDEN, New York, Feb 19, (AP): The slayings were horrifying — a couple and their two children bound hand and foot, shot in the back of the head, doused with gasoline and set on fire in their suburban dream house.

The motive was heart breaking.

Robbery.

The take: A pair of women's sneakers and some underwear, diamond earrings, a television and VCR and \$200 in cash.

With one suspect killed in a police shootout and another in custody but not talking, police remained baffled by the brutality of the slayings. But criminal justice experts say seemingly random crimes are becoming more common in America as a society obsessed with feeling good becomes desensitised to violence.

"More and more we see criminals who are willing to use lethal force if necessary," said James Alan Fox, professor of criminal justice at Boston's Northeastern University.

"It used to be 'I'm ok, you're ok,'" Fox said. "Now it's 'I'm ok and you're dead.'"

"To a sociopath, even \$5 could be more important than the lives of four people."

Such life-is-cheap killings are becoming almost commonplace they have to be particularly vicious or sadistic to be memorable.

On Feb 10, for instance, robbers in Las Cruces, New Mexico, shot seven people in a bowling alley office, killing a man, his two young daughters, and another girl before setting a fire to try cover up the crime.

Stabbed

On Thursday, police in Colombia, South Carolina, said a 23-year-old man stabbed his mother 24 times with a butcher knife and then watched television as she lay dying on the bathroom floor, pleading with him to call an ambulance.

The 54-year-old woman was killed after arguing with her son over unpaid credit card bills, police said.

New York state police allege that robbery was the motive that led Michael King and his mother to the large gray house in the affluent Ellis Hollow community the night of Dec 22.

Credit cards and a bank access card taken from the home were later used to make about \$1,650 worth of purchases at malls in suburban Syracuse and Auburn and to withdraw \$200 from a cash machine.

But the robbers decided to leave no witnesses, Capt. Carl Shaver said.

Pillowcases were tied over the heads of Dolores and Warren A. "Tony" Harris and their 11-year-old son, Marc. Their feet and hands bound, and each was shot in the back of the head.

The Harris' 15-year-old daughter, Shelby, was found in a different room. She had been sexually assaulted before being shot in the head.

Michael King, who would have been charged with the family's murders, died in a shootout Feb 7 as police tried to arrest him at his Dryden apartment.

His 54-year-old mother, Shirley, a petite woman with gray-streaked hair, was arrested and charged with arson, murder and possession of stolen property. Police say she has told them little.

The involvement of Mrs King, a cook and cleaner with no criminal record, remains unclear. Police said her fingerprint was found on a gasoline can at the crime scene, but they have not said whether she took part in the killings or even if she was in the house when they occurred.

Run afoul

Michael King had run afoul of the law before. The 33-year-old sometime maintenance worker had a record of arrests for burglary and robbery.

After a 1982 arrest for weapons possession, King told police he regretted not "shooting it out" with the arresting officer and killing as many police as possible, said state police superintendent Thomas Constantine.

Jack Levin, a sociologist at Northeastern University and co-author with Fox of a book on mass murder, said the brutality and precision of the Harris slayings suggests a killer who took pleasure in causing pain.

FBI statistics show the incidence of violent crime — rapes, murders, robberies and aggravated assaults — has climbed by 18 per cent during the past five years.

Much of that increase is drug-related, though police say drugs apparently were not a factor in the Harris killings.

كنا من المجرمين

Reagan denies again

NEW YORK, Feb 19, (Reuters): Former President Ronald Reagan stated in videotaped testimony that he did not authorise his national security adviser to break the law in the Iran-Contra affair, the New York Times said in its Monday edition.

Quoting a person with "detailed knowledge" of the former president, the New York Times said Reagan's deposition was consistent with most of his past statements.

Reagan has maintained that he did not authorise his staff to violate the law in the affair, the most serious scandal in his eight-year presidency.

He has said he does not recall details of the decisions to sell arms to Iran and divert profits to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

The former president's videotaped testimony, given in a closed Los Angeles court on Friday and Saturday, will be used in the trial of his former National Security Adviser John Poindexter, charged with making false statements to Congress and obstructing inquiries into the Iran-Contra affair.

The tape will be made public after being vetted for national security secrets.

My mommy is using drugs: son

STRAITFORD, Connecticut, Feb 19, (UPI): A young mother faces narcotics charges after her 6-year-old son told authorities he was missing school because "my mommy is using drugs," police said yesterday.

Carolyn Womack, 26, was arrested on charges of possession of narcotics, possession of drug paraphernalia and risk of injury to a minor, police said. Womack, who was free on \$25,000 bond, was scheduled to be arraigned in Bridgeport superior court on Feb 26, police said.

Police raided Womack's home on Friday after keeping it under surveillance for more than two weeks because her young son, told school officials she was using drugs. During the raid, police found three bags of heroin and syringes, as well as evidence of cocaine use, said Capt. Michael Kovach.

Womack's son was at home during the raid along with his 9-year-old sister and 13-year-old cousin, Kovach said.

Call to execute Cooper

Massive Tehran student rally against Rushdie

NICOSIA, Feb 19, (AP): Iranian media reports yesterday said thousands of students demonstrated to support the year-old death threat against British author Salman Rushdie and also called for the execution of Briton Roger Cooper.

The marchers issued a communiqué calling for the death of Cooper, imprisoned in Iran on spying charges, at the end of the march from Tehran University to the former British embassy, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Cooper, 53, a British businessman, has been in prison in Iran since Dec 7, 1985. He lived in Iran for 20 years prior to his arrest.

In London, the British Foreign Office said it "deeply deplored" the call for Cooper's execution.

The late Ayatollah Khomeini, architect of Iran's Islamic revolution, issued a religious

edict on Feb 14 last year condemning Rushdie to death for allegedly defaming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Iran said the students' communiqué called for curbing trade relations with Britain and condemned the recent deportation of nine Iranians by London. It said the statement demanded the deportation of British journalists from Iran, although none are known to be stationed there.

"(British Prime Minister Margaret) Thatcher is playing with fire by supporting Rushdie," the marchers chanted, according to Iran.

The press reports, all monitored in Nicosia, said the demonstrators burned British and US flags while chanting, "by the ruling of Khomeini, Salman Rushdie must be killed."



Rushdie protest
Thousands of people demonstrated in Tehran on Sunday to protest writer Salman Rushdie's book 'The Satanic Verses'. The demonstration was in support of Iran's recent repeated demand for Rushdie's death. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rope from getaway copter snaps: convict killed

PARIS, Feb 19, (AP): One convict was killed and another seriously injured in an escape attempt yesterday when a rope that was lowered into their prison yard by a helicopter broke, the government said.

The rope got tangled in cables that had been laid above the prison yard to prevent such escapes, officials at the Justice Ministry said.

The prisoners' three accomplices in the helicopter escaped, the ministry said on condition of not being identified.

Emile Dieudonne, 38, died after falling 25 feet (eight metres) to the exercise yard at the Fresnes prison in suburban Paris. Fernando Alonso de Celada of Argentina, also 38, suffered multiple fractures but his life was not in danger, officials said.

It was not clear if the men collaborated in the escape attempt.

An unidentified man later telephoned the French News Agency France-Press and said he had participated in the attempt.

He said he had been organised for Dieudonne alone.

Terrorist attacks in air reduced

LOCKERBIE, Feb 19, (AP): Members of US President George Bush's Commission on Aviation Security and Terrorism laid a wreath yesterday in memory of the victims of the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing.

Commission chairman Ann McLoughlin, speaking at a news conference, said the likelihood of another such bombing was reduced by advances made in security following the Dec 21, 1988, disaster.

The seven commissioners went to an area of the small Scottish town of Lockerbie where airplane debris destroyed municipal housing, and laid a wreath in a memorial to victims whose bodies were discovered there.

They then went to the windswept Dryfedale cemetery, where a permanent memorial has been dedicated to the 270 people killed when the airplane exploded — all 259 on the plane and 11 on the ground.

Mrs McLoughlin placed a wreath of red, white and blue flowers next to a Lacrosse stick left by a visiting team from Syracuse University. Students enrolled in the university's study abroad programme were among those killed.

Speaking to reporters later, Mrs McLoughlin said, "I would suggest the terrorists are not winning. If security is good and getting better. There are still problems, particularly in Third World countries because of the costs, but the probability of attack has been reduced since Lockerbie because of technical advances and human resource."

"Nothing spoke so loudly as the silence of some of the Pan Am impact sites here," Mrs McLoughlin said.

US fails to track Aids Social snag

NEW ORLEANS, Feb 19, (Reuters): Politics and Americans' reluctance to talk with the government about Aids and sex are making it difficult for public health officials to track the Aids epidemic and plot ways to contain it, public opinion experts told a scientific conference yesterday.

Researchers need to learn more about Americans' sex lives because the disease is often transmitted by particular sex acts such as anal intercourse between homosexual males.

But a government plan for a national survey on sexual behaviour has been held up for over two years by opposition from a few congressmen and bureaucrats, the experts told the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

A plan to survey the prevalence of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome in order to accurately estimate the US infection rate is just now being tested for feasibility, a decade after the epidemic first surfaced, the experts said.

"Even with Aids currently making accurate information on sexual behaviour of immediate life-and-death concern, the collection of scientific information on sexual matters is being thwarted by political opposition," said Tom Smith of the National Opinion Research Corp at the University of Chicago.

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Lettuce and wheat grown in space

Soviet cosmonauts land safely

MOSCOW, Feb 19, (Agencies): Soviet cosmonauts Alexander Viktorenko and Alexander Serebrov returned to Earth today after a five-month mission in the space station Mir, Tass news agency reported.

The pair landed near Arkalyk in Soviet Central Asia aboard the Soyuz TM-9 spaceship.

Viktorenko and Serebrov were replaced by a new crew last Tuesday, the sixth to occupy the Mir station since its launch in February 1986.

During their stay in Mir, the two cosmonauts performed experiments including the growing of lettuce and wheat.

The crew made five space-

walks, installing new equipment and monitoring gear outside the space station.

Serebrov and Viktorenko got off to a poor start in their mission, when they had to make a manually-controlled link-up on Sept 8 last year after the automatic docking systems failed.

In October, official reports said there was a 40-day delay in sending modules carrying food and life-support equipment to the cosmonauts. The delay was blamed on service unreliability in some parts of the system.

The Soviet space programme has come under increasing attack for its high cost and a string of technical problems.

A replacement crew, Anatoly Solovyov and Alexander Balandin, flew to the space platform Feb 11 and will remain in space for about six months to continue the experiments.

Solovyov and Balandin will carry out experiments on the growth of monocystals of protein compounds and technology to purify medicinal preparations by the "electrophoresis method," Tass said.

The two cosmonauts also performed five spacewalks, including testing the space motorcycle.

The countdown was underway today for Thursday's launch of space shuttle Atlantis with a spy satellite that reportedly will help monitor Soviet compliance with arms-control agreements.

A Soviet official on an unprecedented tour of the Kennedy Space Centre yesterday said with a smile the shuttle's classified payload was a waste of money as his country has "no special secrets."

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Freedom at last

Three Vietnamese escaped recently from E. Germany through a hole in the wall near the Brandenburg gate. In the last two months over 3000 Vietnamese escaped from the German Democratic Republic to West Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kaifu pledges to meet voter demand

Ruling party captures 275 seats: JSP improves with 136

TOKYO, Feb 19. (Agencies): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu pledged today to use his party's election victory to meet voter and overseas demands to improve the quality of everyday life in the world's second richest country.

"We should make further efforts to expand domestic demand and imports," he told a news conference.

That would suit both the United States and many Japanese voters because it would serve to cut Japan's big trade surplus while improving the lot of workaholic salarymen and factory labourers largely responsible for its economic success.

His political future on the line, Kaifu confounded his critics and led his Liberal Democratic Party to its 12th straight victory in yesterday's elections.

The LDP, hampered by a stock scandal and its sponsorship of an unpopular three per cent sales tax, had held 295 seats in the outgoing house. The largest opposition group, the Japan Socialist Party, made dramatic gains, from 83 seats in the last house to 136.

The financial community leaders expressed relief over the pro-business Liberal Democrats' victory, but the Tokyo Stock Exchange's leading index fell today.

When the 271st Liberal Democratic seat was captured, Kaifu painted in the blank eye of a papier-mache doll at party headquarters in Tokyo to signify fulfilment of the party's goal in the election. The "daruma" doll ceremony is traditionally performed to indicate fulfilment of a wish.

Ichiro Ozawa, secretary-general of the Liberal Democratic Party, speaking today at party headquarters, said: "We thank the voters from our hearts for giving us a stable majority. They made a calm judgement to let us steer the nation's vital course in the 1990s."

He added that tomorrow his party would begin consulting with the Socialist on steering the nation.

Socialist Party chairwoman Takako Doi vowed to pursue her party's effort to repeal the sales tax.

"Our purpose was to reduce the Liberal Democrats' strength as much as possible," she said. "But, we'll carry out what we promised during the campaign, in co-operation with other opposition parties."

Later, in a nationally televised interview in which she termed the election a people's referendum on the levy, she said, "unfortunately, the results showed that in a sense we have not obtained a majority toward abolishing the tax."

The Liberal Democrats have promised to review the tax, which went into effect last April. They could lower the levy on groceries, rents and some other items. The opposition has demanded abolition of the tax.

Ms Doi also expressed regret that other major opposition parties did poorly. The Komeito (clean government party) fell from 54 seats in the outgoing house to 45, the Japan communists from 26 to 16, and the Democratic Socialist Party from 25 to 14.

The tiny United Social Democratic Party held steady at four seats and the Progressive Party, which had no seats before the election, won one. The remaining seats went to 21 independent candidates.

Among the successful independents was Nobuteru Ishihara, son of Liberal Democrat Shintaro Ishihara, the co-author of "A Japan That Can Say No."

The book, co-authored by Sony chairman Akio Morita, set off rumbles in Washington for criticism of the United States.

A jubilant Kaifu had said Sunday, when the victory already was evident, that the result was "a form of purification."

But "simply being elected does not mean one is absolved," Socialist secretary-general Tsuruo Yamaguchi said. "The need for political reform is bigger than ever."

Voters returned to their parliamentary seats virtually all of the Liberal Democrats implicated in the Recruit stock scandal, in which many politicians profited from cut-rate shares.

See also Page 15

Kaifu also told reporters he was willing to discuss changes in the three per cent consumption tax the government introduced last April.

The LDP lost seats in the powerful lower house of Parliament but retained the majority needed to choose the prime ministers, according to final election results today.

"Each candidate worked as if he were crawling on the ground, and I think people gave us credit for that," Kaifu told reporters after the final tallies.

With ballot-counting complete, the Liberal Democrats captured a majority of 275 seats in the 512-seat house, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) reported.

The party needed 257 seats for a simple majority and 271 to retain the chairmanships of all lower house committees.



Doi at JSP headquarters. (Reuters wirephoto)



Kaifu flashes a winning smile as he gives the thumbs-up. (Reuters wirephoto)



Nakasone waves as he is surrounded and cheered by supporters. (Reuters wirephoto)



Ex-prime minister Sosuke Uno is congratulated by supporters on being elected. (Reuters wirephoto)

HK jails Briton for sex crime

HONG KONG, Feb 19. (Reuters): A former Hong Kong government vice lawyer was jailed today for incitement to procure under-age girls for sex.

Judge John Roy described 34-year-old Briton Christopher Harris as "undoubtedly a potentially dangerous sexual deviate," and jailed him for 18 months.

Harris only came to trial after a local newspaper ran a campaign about how he was allowed to quietly leave the government's legal department, which prosecutes criminal cases, after he was confronted with the evidence.

The newspaper coverage included the entire transcript of a recorded telephone conversation between the vice-squad lawyer and a prostitute in which Harris requested a young girl be brought to him and described why in vivid detail.

Attorney-General Jeremy Mathews changed his mind and decided to prosecute, and Harris, who by that time had left the British colony, came back to turn himself in. He pleaded not guilty.

The trial grabbed local newspaper headlines with lurid testimony about group sex, wife swapping and simulated rapes.

Harris said he had indulged in all these at one time or another with his ex-wife. But, he said, when he spoke to a Hong Kong policeman posing as a procurer about getting young girls for sex it was pure fantasy.

"I couldn't ever do that to somebody," he said in court. "I am a real softy about these things."

He told of calling overseas sex-tel services because relating his fantasies excited him.

Roy said, "it may well be that his sexual deviancy began with fantasy but it is clear in the court's view that this had progressed to the stage where his fantasies became reality."

The judge added to the woes of the legal department by acquitting Harris on two charges and saying if they had been framed in another way his verdict might have been different.

The attorney-general, who is the government's leading lawyer, had been asked by local reporters before Friday's verdict if he intended to resign after a run of adverse publicity for his department.

Earlier this month a judge criticised him in a case concerning a mother and child who entered Hong Kong illegally and in December the government's head of criminal prosecutions disappeared after questioning by the colony's independent commission against corruption.

"I don't accept it (the department) is in a shambles and I'm certainly not resigning," he told the South China Morning Post, the English-language newspaper that exposed the Harris case.

UK ready for Vietnam deal

Aid for boat people return

LONDON, Feb 19. (AP): Foreign Office Minister of State Francis Maude was reported today as saying Britain would ignore US disapproval and give aid to Vietnam if Vietnam agreed to the forcible return of more boat people from Hong Kong.

London's Independent newspaper said Maude made the remarks in Hanoi yesterday. He "showed little optimism" that Vietnam would agree, the report added.

Vietnam accepted 51 boat people forcibly flown home in December from among more than 50,000 living in crowded camps in Britain's Hong Kong colony, but then said it would only accept more if they returned voluntarily.

The United States disapproved of the forcible repatriations and called for a one-year moratorium on the practice.

Maude, who was speaking before starting three days of talks with the Vietnamese government, was reported to have said he would not be concerned at breaking ranks with the United States which has embargoed aid to Vietnam.

The Independent reported: "Relations between Britain and the United States on the issue have deteriorated since last month's Geneva conference, at which the US called for the moratorium. Britain feels that countries in South East Asia may abandon their decade-old policy of 'first asylum' for Vietnamese boat people and simply push new arrivals back out to sea."

The British Broadcasting Corp. reported from Hanoi today that Maude said he had made progress in his attempt to end the disagreement at his first round of talks with Vietnamese officials.

Neither Maude nor the Vietnamese would give details, the report said.

The BBC reported Maude said earlier that an agreement was essential because it was expected that thousands more boat people would try to escape to Hong Kong over the next few months.

The BBC noted reports today of the apparent suicide of a Vietnamese man who had been told he did not qualify as a refugee.

The BBC said the death was "believed to be the first of its kind and will do nothing to allay international fears about the practicalities of sending thousands of boat people back to Vietnam."

The escape fever that gripped parts of north Vietnam and sent tens of thousands of boat people fleeing to Hong Kong is beginning to ease, according to local officials, returning refugees and Western diplomats at the weekend.

Although they did not rule a renewed exodus of small wooden boats east across the Gulf of Tonkin next month when weather conditions improve, they believed the message was getting home that the Hong Kong route to a dream life abroad is a dead-end street.

HK denied refugee status Vietnamese hangs self

HONG KONG, Feb 19. (AP): A Vietnamese man who was denied refugee status hanged himself at his detention centre, becoming the first suicide among boat people in Hong Kong, officials said today.

Nguyen Van Hai, 28, was found hanging from his belt in a toilet at the Whitehead Detention Centre Friday and was taken to a hospital, where he died last night, officials said.

Before his death, Hai told an interpreter at the hospital he was dissatisfied with the screening system that determines whether Vietnamese are refugees to be resettled or illegal immigrants subject to repatriation, police spokesman Robert Yiu said.

Hai's appeal for refugee status had been denied by a government review board the day before he hanged himself, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees offices in Hong Kong said.

Japan looked at the possibility of an opposition government and said "no, thanks," at least not yet," Gerald Curtis, a political science professor at Colombia University in New York, said here today.

Exploiting voter fears of inexperienced leaders piloting the world's second largest economy at a time of global political turbulence, the Liberal

Democratic Party rolled to its 12th straight lower-house election victory yesterday.

The LDP, in power for the past 34 years, confounded the pundits by snaring 275 of the 512 seats in more powerful lower house, thus maintaining its grip on the government.

Squabbling opposition parties found themselves unable to repeat their victory in the upper-house poll last July, when they tapped voter anger over a new sales tax and sex and money scandals plaguing the LDP to take control of that chamber for the first time since 1955.

But analysts said that historic upset may have laid the seeds of a slow but gradual shift away from the LDP's dominant rule of Japan over the past three decades.

"One-party dominant rule has ended; we haven't yet found an alternative," said Tokai University political scientist Rei Shiratori.

Thanks to its victory last July, the opposition, led by the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), is likely to be in control of the upper house until 1995 and the LDP will have to negotiate with it on virtually all of its legislation.

The LDP, in order to break through

the deadlock, will have to form some sort of policy agreement with the opposition," Shiratori said.

Although the voters returned the ruling party to power with a resounding victory yesterday, opinion polls taken before the election showed that many Japanese would like to see a truer two-party democracy in the country.

The Japan Socialists, piloted by the fiery Takako Doi, was the main beneficiary of the voters' unease with one-party rule, increasing their representation in the lower house to 136 seats from 85.

"I think we, as a nation, resist change," said 32-year-old Hiroshi Motoki, a private tutor. "But at the same time, we are very fed up. I was personally hoping for some sort of bipartisan arrangement between the LDP and the JSP but the result was very disappointing."

In the end, the JSP was unable to either field enough candidates to win the election on its own or form a pre-election coalition with other opposition groups.

"It looks like a return to the politics of the late '50s and '60s (which

someone once characterised as a one and a half party system," Curtis said.

He was pessimistic that Doi, Japan's first female political leader, could refashion the JSP enough to convince voters that it was fit to govern.

"A lot of people have been blinded by the glow of Takako Doi," Curtis said. "It's very hard to see how the Socialist Party ... can unload all the historical baggage it has carried around all these years."

Some other analysts, including Shiratori, believe the JSP can change, although they don't see it happening quickly.

Train talk: Best we could do

Sidelights

Father and son team wins: Voters just couldn't say no to Shintaro Ishihara, whose nationalist views expressed in the book "The Japan That Can Say No" have created a stir in the United States.

The flamboyant and outspoken Ishihara, 57, was elected for the seventh time to represent his metropolitan Tokyo district in the lower house of Parliament. He was backed by the governing Liberal Democratic Party.

Ishihara's 32-year-old son, Nobuteru, also won a lower house seat in Sunday's elections.

The Ishiharas are the first father and son team to win seats in the powerful chamber in the same election, Japan's Kyodo news service reported.

The victory was the first for the younger Ishihara, who ran as an independent in another heavily populated Tokyo district. His win was partly attributed to the fame of his father and to support from well-known figures in the entertainment world.

The late Yujiro Ishihara, Shintaro's brother, was a leading actor after World War II.

In his controversial book, co-authored with Akio Morita, chairman of Sony Corp., the elder Ishihara wrote that Japan has been too passive in its relations with the United States and argued that Tokyo must stand up and say "no" to unrealistic US demands on military and trade issues.

The book, a bestseller in Japan, also accuses

Americans of racial arrogance, which Ishihara says has created an inferiority complex among the Japanese, making them too willing to give in to Washington. (AP)

Nakasone puts scandal aside: "The Recruit scandal is settled," declared Yasuhiro Nakasone, former premier and central figure in a massive stock-peddling affair, after winning re-election in Takasaki in Japan's lower house race.

Intent on a political comeback, Japan's best-known politician said his election "means that I have passed final judgement and that the issue is settled."

The 71-year-old conservative is the most prominent of the "Recruit legislators," most of whom triumphantly returned their seats in Sunday's poll.

They include former Premier Noboru Takeshita and former cabinet ministers Shintaro Abe and Kiichi Miyazawa — all recipients of lucrative, pre-listed shares in a subsidiary of Recruit co. in return for political favours.

Although he always denied implication in the scandal, Nakasone resigned from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) last May to take responsibility for the incident that occurred during his 1982-87 tenure as premier.

Now he appears ready for a return to the mainstream of Japanese politics. (Reuters)

hiro Nakasone, one of the major casualties of the Recruit scandal, was one of the earliest projected winners when television stations began flashing computer-calculated predictions during last evening.

"Recruit, sales tax, corruption ... I don't know where they all went, and I don't think they have been dismissed," said Keikichi Takahashi, 40, a salesman. "But meanwhile, many other things have come up, especially in the rest of the world. I think we had to turn a blind eye to domestic problems for the sake of maintaining our foreign relations."

A resented three per cent sales tax, introduced last April by the LDP, was a focal point in the two-week campaigning for this

election and one of the main reasons for the LDP's defeat in last year's upper house poll. The opposition had promised to repeal the tax.

"It seems people just got used to having to pay it and it stopped bothering them as much," said Satoko Okamura, a shop assistant. "But I know a lot of people were saying they would vote against it. I wonder what happened?"

"I think we, as a nation, resist change," said 32-year-old Hiroshi Motoki, a private tutor. "But at the same time, we are very fed up. I was personally hoping for some sort of bipartisan arrangement between the LDP and the JSP but the result was very disappointing."

In the end, the JSP was unable to either field enough candidates to win the election on its own or form a pre-election coalition with other opposition groups.

"It looks like a return to the politics of the late '50s and '60s (which

Japanese voters beginning to flirt with new power structure, but shy away

TOKYO, Feb 19. (Reuters): Japanese voters have shied away from ending the ruling party's 34-year hegemony for now, but their flirtation with the possibility of a new power structure may be just beginning.

"Japan looked at the possibility of an opposition government and said 'no, thanks,' at least not yet," Gerald Curtis, a political science professor at Colombia University in New York, said here today.

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Aquino: media must be mindful

MANILA, Feb 19, (AP): President Corason Aquino, whose administration has been criticised in the news media following a December coup attempt, today urged the press to be more responsible in reporting about her government.

Addressing the opening session of an Asian media conference today, Aquino said a free press and a good government are partners in progress under a democratic system.

About 500 journalists, advertising executives and businessmen were attending the fourth One Asia assembly of the Press Foundation of Asia.

The Feb 19-21 meeting is to include a live televised conference today with Aquino, Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh, Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, South Korean President Roh Tae Woo and South Korean Prime Minister Kang Young Hoon.

Soviet Foreign Minister spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov and economist John Kenneth Galbraith are among speakers in the discussions.

Aquino said the press was a powerful instrument in the struggle of people against repressive governments in Eastern Europe and South Africa, and cited the role of the mass media in the "people power" revolt in February 1986 that installed her as president.

With that power, with its tremendous access to the people's mind, media must start to be mindful of the common sense and awesome responsibility. It is time for that power and influence to be re-examined," Aquino said, adding that this task should be done by the press itself.

She said "a great deal of the perception of continuing threat" to the Philippines after the Dec 1-9 coup attempt by mutinous troops has been the result of the press "avid but not always careful search for the truth."

Aquino urged the press to consider what the "reckless pursuit" of a story can do to a democratic government during periods of conflict, "where the life of democracy hangs in the balance."

In presenting the two sides of the conflict, Aquino asked the press also to consider that one side aims to topple the government and establish a dictatorship.

"Consider also that in a contest of arms between forces that seek to terminate all freedoms, including the freedom of the press, and the democratic government battling for those freedoms, it is neither truthful nor right to keep insisting on the inevitable triumph of those forces of dictatorship, especially in the wake of their defeat," said Aquino, who has survived six coup attempts.

Galbraith said a free press was an "inescapable necessity" in modern industrial society, which requires sustained and large numbers of intelligent and educated people.

Return of Kuril debated

MANILA, Feb 19, (AP): A Soviet spokesman said today the return of several southern Kuril Islands to Japan was the subject of internal debate within the Soviet government.

Gennadi Gerasimov made the statement to Asian publishers on the opening day of the One Asia Assembly, a conference sponsored by the Press Foundation of Asia.

Gerasimov said he "cannot agree" that returning the islands was a "prerequisite" for good relations with Japan. Japan has insisted that the islands seized at the end of World War II be given back.

Gerasimov said there is disagreement on what the Soviet Union should do about the islands.

One bloc says returning the islands could create a "dangerous precedent" in terms of other postwar borders, he said in an apparent reference to the borders of Poland and Germany.

Gerasimov said a recent Soviet poll had shown 85 per cent of the Soviet people were opposed to "surrendering the islands to Japan."

He specifically cited Soviet maverick Boris Yeltsin as favouring return of the islands, but "in five stages."

Cheney warns of abandoning bases

Police clash with protesters; 30 injured

MANILA, Feb 19, (AP): The US and Philippines defence chiefs failed today to bridge differences over funding of US bases, and the US official warned Washington would abandon the sites without acceptable terms.

Police also clashed today with demonstrators in two separate protests against the visit by US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney.

Cheney, after being shunned by Philippine President Corason

Aquino, met for nearly three hours with Defence Minister Fidel Ramos in discussions described as "very cordial," but also "very forthright."

He pledged to continue aid to the Philippines in a bid to defuse diplomatic tensions.

Cheney said allowing the United States to use the bases is in the interest of both governments, but it "will stay only as long as the Philippine people wish it to stay, and only if the terms negotiated are

acceptable to both parties."

Outside the US Clark Air Base, 70 kms (40 miles) to the north, 30 people were hurt when truncheon-wielding police drove back students and workers throwing stones and trying to March on the base.

Dozens of students, carrying signs reading "Cheney welcome to anti-bases country," hanged his effigy on a tree outside the camp's main gate and burned it while Philippine soldiers watched from a distance.

Relations between the two longtime allies have reached new lows in recent weeks. Aquino announced last week she would refuse to see Cheney, expressing unhappiness with negative coverage of her government in the US media and asserting that Washington has failed to live up to its financial obligations for use of the six bases.

Meanwhile, officials in Washington have expressed concern over Aquino's ability to reform her government and fend off new coup attempts.

Cheney has stressed that he did not come to open any negotiations over the bases, but there was no sign his comments soothed Philippine anger over the issue.

Cheney said the Philippines remained among the five biggest US aid recipients in the world and aid payments to the country in the past five years exceeded pledges by \$950 million.

He denied suggestions that the succession of visits here by US officials in recent weeks was a signal of US disaffection with the Aquino government.

"I would strongly disagree with that," Cheney said. "There is no desire on our part whatsoever to in any way send any 'body' signal other than one of continuing friendship and continuing commitment."

At a joint news conference with Ramos, Cheney lauded his counterpart for being "very direct and very forthright" in their discussions.

The US Defence Secretary pledged his "best efforts" to restore the \$96 million cut by congress from the support package for the six military bases. The leases for the sites, which include Clark Air base and Subic Bay naval base, expire next year.

Cheney stressed that US-Philippine ties are strong, and should remain so.

"I think that is a misreading of events to suggest that somehow, the United States is trying to send signals other than the one I have already given publicly, which is our very strong commitment to our alliance with the Philippines," he said.

Ramos acknowledged that the US administration needs congressional approval for aid commitments but said he told Cheney that "time is of the essence" in meeting obligations.

Asked whether he could say that Filipinos wanted the bases to remain, Ramos declined to answer, saying the issue was under discussion in the Philippine congress.

Cheney is on a two-week tour of Asian host nations for US forces in preparation for sending Congress an April 1 assessment of the nation's military posture in the Pacific.

There are some 18,000 US military personnel based in the Philippines, with another 20,000 civilian and military dependents.



Cheney meets Renato

US Defence Secretary, Richard Cheney meets Philippine armed forces chief Gen. Renato de Villa (right) during a courtesy call in Manila's Camp Aguinaldo Feb 19. Cheney is on a two-day visit to the

country as part of his two-week Pacific tour. At centre is Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tornado kills 1, injures 13

A tornado killed one person, injured 13 others and damaged 100 houses Monday in southern Japan, police reported.

Kyushu Electric Power Co. said electricity for about 4,800 homes was cut off for five hours after the tornado knocked down and broke power lines on Japan's southernmost main island.

An official of the Kagoshima prefectural police, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a 54-year-old carpenter was killed when a flying roof tile hit him in the head. (AP)

30 killed as roof collapse: At least 30 people were killed when the roof of a packed meeting hall collapsed onto hundreds of people at a factory in a northeast China city, the semi-official China News Service said Monday.

The accident occurred Friday afternoon at a building in the Dalian Heavy Machinery Factory, the agency said. Dalian is a northeast coastal city in Liaoning province.

CNS said 270 people were attending a meeting in a hall on the fourth floor of the building when the roof collapsed onto them. At least 30 bodies were recovered, it said.

Many others were trapped in the rubble and at least 130 people were hospitalized, the report said.

The accident was under investigation, CNS said. (UPI)

Brushing away racist charge: In an attempt to brush away charges of racism, Darkie toothpaste will start disappearing from Hong Kong bathrooms next month.

Bowing to international criticism, manufacturer Hawley and Hazel Chemical said on Monday it would rename its popular product Darkie.

"We want the name of our toothpaste to be internationally acceptable. However, some people consider the word 'darkie' racially offensive, particularly in America," said Alvin Au regional commercial director for Hawley and Hazel.

Founded more than 60 years ago in Shanghai before moving to Hong Kong, Hawley and Hazel ran into controversy in 1985 when Colgate-Palmolive of the United States bought a 50 per cent interest in the manufacturer, whose sole product is Darkie toothpaste. (Reuter)

Quakes strike New Zealand

A powerful earthquake struck New Zealand's northern island Monday, causing minor damage, and a second strong tremor rattled Vanuatu, another group of south Pacific islands, the US geological survey said in Golden, Colorado.

The first quake was centred on North Island, about 110 miles (175 km) northeast of the capital city of Wellington, and was recorded at 6:35 pm local time. USGS earthquake monitors at Golden measured a preliminary magnitude of 6.4 on the Richter scale, spokesman Don Finley said.

Minor damage was reported in the Palmerston North, Dannevirke and Hastings areas of the island, Finley said. The earthquake was felt from Blenheim on south island and north as far as Hamilton on north island.

The other earthquake occurred about an hour later nearly 2,000 miles (3,200 km) to the north in the Vanuatu Islands, formerly known as the New Hebrides. (UPI)

Typhoon hits Nanning: A fierce typhoon hit the southern Chinese city of Nanning over the weekend, the official Xinhua News Agency said in a brief report Sunday that did not mention any casualties.

Xinhua said Saturday's typhoon and heavy rains also pounded 59 nearby rural counties in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region and caused property damage, but gave no details.

Nanning, the capital of Guangxi Zhuang, is a city of 960,000 people about 630 kilometres (380 miles) west of Hong Kong. (AP)

3 killed as bomb explodes: An object believed to be a bomb left from World War II exploded as four fishermen were pounding on it, killing three of them and leaving a fourth missing, a newspaper reported Monday in Jakarta, Indonesia.

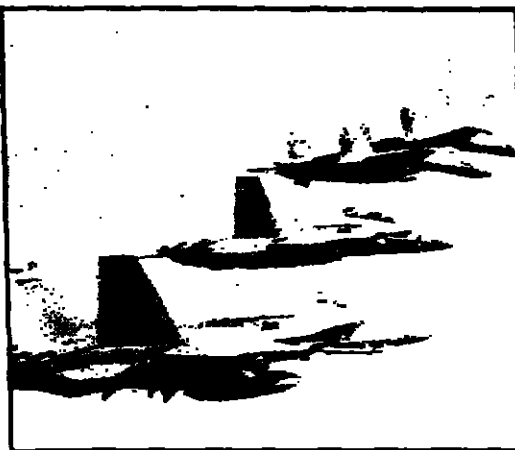
The newspaper Sura Karya quoted Abdul Malik, a local police officer, as saying a villager saw the four pounding on a cylinder object last Saturday just before it exploded.

The villager, who was setting out on a fishing trip, said he was about 200 metres (220 yards) away when a huge explosion sent the fishermen flying.



First Aussie to fly SU-27

Air Marshal Ray Funnell (front) of the Royal Australian Air Force is the first Western air force chief to fly the Soviet Sukhoi SU-27 during the Asian Aerospace Exhibition Feb 17. Special permission had to be sought from Moscow before the air marshal was



allowed his 50-minute flight accompanied by Sukhoi's senior test pilot Victor Pugachev. (Right): Two Royal Australian Air Force FIA-18 Hornets (foreground) in formation with two Soviet SU-27 on Feb 17. (Reuter wirephoto)

Swiss 'Tarzan' disrupts Malaysia log trade

KUCHING, Malaysia, Feb 18, (Reuter): A Swiss "Tarzan" is provoking members of a tribe on Borneo island to disrupt logging activities and is distorting the image of Malaysia abroad, a Malaysian leader has said.

Abdul Taib Mahmud, chief minister of timber-rich Sarawak state, told reporters Bruno Manser should be deported as soon as possible as he was harming the Penan tribal people by preventing government efforts to resettle them.

"We would like to see him go. He has violated our immigration law. If we can catch hold of him we can deport him," Abdul Taib said at the end of a foreign ministers' meeting between the six-member Association of South East Asian Nations and the European Economic Com-

munity.

Malaysia, a major exporter of tropical hardwoods, has been accused by Western environmentalists of indiscriminately felling its tropical rainforests and harassing the Penan, some of whom set up roadblocks to stop loggers entering their jungle homes.

Britain's Prince Charles said in London on Feb 6 that activities against the Penan and Yanomami Indians of Brazil amounted to "collective genocide," a charge Abdul Taib described on Saturday as "very grave and unfair."

Two hundred spear-wielding Penan, who total 9,000, have been arrested and released since 1987 when Malaysia passed a law banning activities to disrupt logging. The arrests provoked a wave of international criticism.



Cheney effigy burnt

An effigy of US Defence Secretary Richard Cheney is burnt by some 30 student activists denouncing his visit to the Philippines during a rally Feb 16 in front of a military gate in Manila. Cheney is in the country for a two-day visit, as part of his two week Pacific tour. (Reuter wirephoto)

Seoul-Moscow ties Be moderate, N. Korea told

SEOUL, Feb 19, (AP): The establishment of limited consular ties between Seoul and Moscow hints that communist North Korea should be more moderate, the first South Korean diplomat assigned to the Soviet Union said today.

"It is sending a message (to North Korea) that the world is changing, so it must act in a more constructive way," Gong Ro-hyung told reporters.

He said North Korea must open up its closed society "to avoid becoming another Romania." The Stalinist government of Romania, a long-time friend of North Korea, collapsed in a popular uprising.

Gong, 58, is to leave for Moscow next week to open South Korea's first diplomatic mission in the Soviet Union. He was named to the post today by President Roh Tae-woo.

Despite a lack of diplomatic relations, South Korea and the Soviet Union have expanded economic and other non-political links in recent years, especially after the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. They established limited consular ties last December.

Gong, the former consul-general in New York, said his diplomatic function in Moscow would be limited because of the lack of formal ties, but he would have no major problems in representing South Korea in the Soviet Union.

"I am a full representative of our country and I don't expect any major problems in carrying out my duties," he said.

He expressed hope that his assignment would help open full diplomatic relations between Seoul and Moscow, but acknowledged that such a move would face strong opposition from North Korea.



Gong Ro-hyung

Cambodia dialogue continues haltingly

BANGKOK, Feb 19, (AP): Cambodia's Vietnamese-installed government and guerrilla leaders head into new peace talks still quarrelling over who should administer the country pending national elections, reports seen today said.

In a speech last Saturday, Phnom Penh's President Heng Samrin accepted a United Nations role but rejected guerrilla demands that his government be dismantled before elections.

Guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk renewed the demand for dissolution of the Hun Sen government the next day in Thailand's Pattaya City, near Bangkok. He spoke at a conference, a statement from the Sihanouk side said.

Phnom Penh's Premier Hun Sen is to hold talks with Sihanouk in Thailand this week. The Cambodian factions, along with Vietnam and other nations, are to hold wider talks next week in Indonesia.

"The positions of the national resistance forces and Hun Sen are very far apart," the guerrilla radio commented today. "Therefore, one cannot hope to solve the complex Cambodian problem quickly."

Heng Samrin's speech inaugurating a school was carried in a broadcast over Phnom Penh radio. The text was seen in Bangkok today.

Confusion

He said that dismantling his government would cause unpredictable confusion and unrest in society and allow the Khmer Rouge to seize power.

The Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of thousands of people in radical agrarian revolution when it ruled Cambodia in the 1970s before Vietnam invaded in late 1978 and installed the current government. It is now the largest guerrilla group, allied with Sihanouk's group and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

Heng Samrin said his government favoured talks, but added, "we should not reply on negotiations and forget the struggle because various parties have different goals."

"The upcoming talks are very tough because the enemy is still stubborn and will not easily accept our proposal if we do not break its forces on the battlefield," he added.

Sihanouk said the Phnom Penh government cannot remain because the UN-recognised resistance government was willing to dismantle at the same time. He said the guerrillas readily accepted a UN interim administration until a general election is held.

Taiwan assemblymen fight

Opposition protest against old guard

TAIPEI, Feb 19, (AP): Screaming opposition members shoved officials and smashed doors today to protest the ageing politicians who will dominate parliament's vote for Taiwan's president.

Three opposition assemblymen were dragged from the Convention Hall by about 60 police officers. The protesters opposed the choice of Hsueh Yueh, a 94-year-old retired army general, to preside over the 35-day meeting of the electoral college.

The opposition members had occupied the podium and roughed up officials trying to stop their demonstration.

Opposition assemblyman Tsai Shi-Yuan told the convention that choosing Hsueh "was absurd because he is what the public considers an old thief who has not faced re-election" in more than four decades.

The 752-seat National Assembly includes 646 members elected in China before 1949, when they

moved to Taiwan with the rest of the Nationalist Chinese government after it lost a civil war to communist forces.

The ageing assemblymen were frozen in office to support the Nationalist Party's claim that it still is the legitimate ruler of China. Most are at least 70 years old, and several die each year. Before the session began, a 73-year-old member had a heart attack at the Convention Hall and was hospitalised in intensive care.

The opposition Democratic Progressive Party, which has only 11 seats in the assembly, has staged protests calling for the direct election of Taiwan's president and vice-president.

Police released the detained opposition assemblymen from a locked bus after they smashed the windows with umbrellas. They quickly returned to the meeting hall and kicked in glass doors while President Lee Teng-hui was delivering a speech calling for "a society with harmony, unity, law and order."



Saved by clothes rack

An 82-year-old Hong Kong woman hangs from a 13th floor clothes rack (left) after falling from her 16th floor apartment. She apparently slipped



and fell while hanging out her wash to dry. Firemen quickly rescued the woman (right) who is now in hospital in fair condition. (Reuters wirephoto)

A trillion dollars may be saved by conserving energy Global warming can be slowed

NEW ORLEANS, Feb 19, (AP): Improving energy efficiency using today's technology can solve the global warming problem at a profit of a trillion dollars a year, a study says.

A push for energy efficiency would reduce the use of coal and other fossil fuels that is raising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, said the study's author, Amory Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute in Snowmass, Colorado.

"Why fiddle while coal burns? We ought to get on with it," Lovins said yesterday at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The trillion dollars that could be saved each year is equal to the global military budget, Lovins said.

Saving energy is far more profitable than building new power plants, he said. Indeed, energy efficiency is so profitable that it ought to be encouraged even if there were no threat of global

warming from the increased atmospheric carbon dioxide, he said.

Lovins, an economist, has been arguing since the mid-1970s for greater energy efficiency.

He has been criticised by the utility industry and others who say that energy efficiency of the degree that he is calling for is not practical.

Lovins has worked hard to support the argument that very large improvements in energy efficiency can be made using current technology.

He cited a study last year by the Swedish state power board that found that over the next 20 years Sweden could expand its economy by 50 per cent, reduce carbon dioxide output by one-third and lower utility bills — all by increasing energy efficiency.

In the United States, Lovins has calculated that one-fourth of US electricity consumption could be saved with more efficient lighting, one-fourth with

efficient motors, and one-fourth in appliances and other equipment.

The technology exists, but the infrastructure to make it available doesn't, Lovins said. For example, he said, there is no agency to review and redesign a manufacturer's use of motors.

Furthermore, utility planners, policy-makers and politicians are not aware of the potential for savings, he said.

Lovins and his colleagues have done a study concluding that a world of eight billion people with an economy five times the size of the current one could be supported with only one-third of the energy used today.

"Energy policy built on efficiency would enable the earth to support a prosperous civilisation that was not plagued by acid rain, global warming, urban smog, nuclear proliferation and deforestation," the study said.

De Klerk rewarded

Mandela seeks urgent talks with Thatcher

CAPE TOWN, Feb 19, (Agencies): President F.W. de Klerk will attend a one-day meeting of African heads of state in Zaire on Saturday, a South African government spokesman said today.

Political analysts said the invitation to the meeting appeared to be De Klerk's first African reward for his decision on Feb 2 to lift the ban on the African National Congress (ANC) and release its leader, Nelson Mandela, from prison.

"It is confirmed that state President F.W. de Klerk will make a one-day visit to Zaire... in order to attend a meeting of number of African heads of state," the president's spokesman said in a statement.

Government officials said it was not known which African heads of state would attend the meeting, probably to be held in Zaire in the north of Zaire.

Since his release from prison Feb 11 after 27 years in prison for helping to launch the ANC guerrilla campaign, Mandela has insisted that it is not yet time to lift sanctions.

"My intention is to phone and speak to the British Premier on this question," he said in a television interview from his home in Soweto.

"We regard the attitude of the British government on the question of sanctions as of primary importance," he said on the British programme TV-AM.

Mandela said he has a suggestion to make to Mrs Thatcher, but would not reveal it. He said he first had to consult his colleagues.

"I am going to consult the national executive of the ANC in Lusaka (Zambia), as well as the national reception committee in Johannesburg about communicating very urgently with the British Premier," he said.

Mandela, describing brutalities he and other prisoners suffered during his 27 years in jail, said the treatment could have broken many men.

"The acts of brutality were too numerous for me to specify. Some of them could have broken many good men," he told journalists outside his home at the weekend.

"At the beginning the treatment was very harsh and even brutal. Many prisoners were assaulted," said the ANC leader.

Mandela, 71, described how Neville Alexander, one of South Africa's most respected academics, was assaulted and said another prisoner, university lecturer Andrew Masedo, had his shoulder broken.

"They then dug a hole in the cell, buried another prisoner but left his head and face exposed so that he could breathe. When he cried for water to drink, they urinated into his mouth," he said.

Mandela, who was imprisoned for life in 1964 for plotting to overthrow white rule, said he was punished for refusing to do tasks he considered humiliating.

In an unprecedented interview on state television, a top-ranking ANC leader said the ANC accepted yesterday for whites to help build a post-apartheid South Africa.

Thabo Mbeki, the ANC's equivalent of a foreign minister, told South African viewers they had been victims of a prolonged misinformation campaign that depicted the organization as seeking a communist-style one-party state.

"What has inspired the ANC for all these 70-plus years of its existence has been the vision of a South Africa that, before to all the people," Mbeki said from Lusaka, Zambia, the ANC's headquarters. "If they acted together, they could transform this country into something great."

The UN Human Rights Commission passed a strongly worded resolution condemning South Africa today despite the government's recent refusal to accept the resolution.

The resolution made only passing reference to De Klerk's decision to free Mandela and did not refer to De Klerk's new willingness to talk with ANC.

The resolution backed by all 32 Third World and East European members renewed demand for sanctions.

The United States and Britain were the lone dissenters while the nine other Western countries in the 43-nation panel abstained in the roll-call vote requested by West Germany.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Mandela is winning the battle of wills in South Africa, forcing the white leadership to reform while he remains steadfast in the struggle against apartheid.

Mandela has not adjusted. South Africa will not adjust to South Africa," Jackson, who had just returned from a visit to South Africa, told an Abyssinian Baptist church congregation in Harlem.

Government sources said the meeting would be chaired by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, but would not be restricted to his long-term efforts to achieve a ceasefire in Angola's 15-year-old civil war.

De Klerk has met Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and President Felix Houphouët-Boigny of the Ivory Coast since he forced his predecessor P.W. Botha from office last year.

Botha met Mobutu last year, but sources in his office said he never achieved his long-standing ambition of attending a summit of African leaders.

Mandela said today he urgently wanted to speak to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher by telephone about her wish to ease sanctions against South Africa.

NEWS IN BRIEF

3 dead, 10 hurt in motel fire

A natural gas leak apparently triggered an explosion and fire that ripped through a three-story motel and killed at least three people in western Maryland Sunday morning, authorities said in Hagerstown.

The early morning blast blew out the middle front of the 62-unit, three-story motel, throwing debris as far as 300 feet (100 metres) from the building, fire chief Gary Hawbaker said.

Hawbaker said there was a natural gas line in the middle of the fire, "so we couldn't put out the rest of the fire until the gas was shut off." It took firefighters about 30 minutes to shut off the gas, he said.

Firefighters found the body of James G. Scharnack, 45, of Milwaukee in a second floor hallway of the motel, said Dr Edward W. Ditto III, Washington county medical examiner. (AP)

Quake, aftershock hit Palm Springs: A medium-sized earthquake and an aftershock struck a remote area 20 miles (30 kilometres) southeast of Palm Springs on Sunday.

No damage or injuries were reported.

The first tremor struck at 7:52 am (0952 GMT) and measured 4.2 on the Richter scale. It was followed two minutes later by the aftershock measuring 3.1, said Hally Dally, a spokesman for the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

The Palm Springs police department received inquiries about the quake and aftershock, but no reports of trouble, said police assistant Lynette Detz.

An earthquake of 3.5 on the Richter Scale can cause slight damage. 4 can cause moderate damage. Palm Springs is 110 miles (176 kilometres) east of Los Angeles. (AP)

Lawyers complete Exxon case: After two weeks of testimony, prosecutors plan to complete the case against Joseph Hazelwood by offering a few more pieces of the Exxon Valdez puzzle and some expert witnesses to put it all together.

Hazelwood's tanker, one of the newest and most advanced in Exxon's fleet of oil cargo carriers, grounded on Bligh Reef early on March 24. The holes gashed by its giant tanks caused the nation's worst oil spill, a gusher of nearly 11 million gallons (40 million litres) into the crystal waters of Prince William Sound.

Experts in maritime affairs may give their opinions of Hazelwood's decisions. And specialists said to be able to determine from tape-recorded voices whether a person is drunk are to contribute to the prosecution case.

Coast guardsmen who went aboard the crippled vessel in the hours after it hit a jagged reef are likely to provide accounts of the final hours in Hazelwood's ordeal at sea. (AP)

Cuban, Angolan officials meet: Angola and Cuba opened two days of talks Monday in the Angolan capital of Luanda to discuss Havana's Jan 25 decision to halt its troop pullout from the African nation, a news agency reported.

The conference followed a UN rebel attack in which four Cubans were killed.

According to the state agency Angop report, monitored in Lisbon, military officials meeting from both countries are demanding guarantees from the United States and South Africa, to restrain UN rebels from attacking the withdrawing Cubans. The report gave no further details.

The rebels reportedly receive \$50 million in US aid yearly. (AP)

Blasts damage power plant: Two explosions hit an electrical plant near Johannesburg on Sunday night setting it on fire and causing extensive damage but no injuries.

Police said on Monday they suspected sabotage in the blasts, which occurred within minutes of each other and cut power in the area for several hours. They declined to say who they thought was responsible.

Pretoria has regularly blamed bomb attacks on the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement, recently unbanned by President F.W. de Klerk in a series of reforms aimed at drawing the voteless black majority into political negotiations.

While stressing the need for peaceful settlement, ANC figurehead Nelson Mandela, freed a week ago after 27 years in prison, has vowed to continue the nationalist movement's armed struggle against white rule until the government makes significant further apartheid reforms. (Reuters)



A light moment

West German President Richard von Weizsäcker (right) jokes with American film director Oliver Stone during a reception held by the President in West Berlin on Sunday. Stone is in Germany to attend the Berlin Film Festival. (Reuters wirephoto)

Zimbabwean businessman, professor kidnapped

Right-wing Renamo rebels have ambushed and kidnapped a Zimbabwean businessman and South African university professor in Mozambique, government sources said Monday.

Businessman Dudley Searl and David Stephenson, head of the hydrology department at Johannesburg's Witwatersrand University, were kidnapped Friday near the central town of Chimoio, 180 miles (300 kms) southeast of the Zimbabwean capital of Harare, the sources said.

Authorities found their vehicles, with several bullet holes, abandoned on the main road linking the Zimbabwean border with the Mozambican port of Beira.

Searl, 40, director of Zimbabwe's largest prefabrication building business, was on his way to visit projects his company was involved in Beira, the sources said. Stephenson, 46, was examining prospects for road rehabilitation in the Pungwe flats, a low-lying marshy area west of Beira, they said. (UPI)

Mandela, Winnie passports: Passport applications for freed African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela and his wife Winnie have been approved, the South African government said on Monday.

The passports would probably be issued later on Monday, a Home Affairs Ministry spokesman said.

Mandela, released last week from a life jail term for plotting to overthrow white rule, has said he will travel to the ANC's headquarters-in-exile in the Zambian capital Lusaka as soon as possible.

He is expected to make the trip early next week, according to anti-apartheid sources.

Mandela has also said he will travel to Sweden, where the ANC's President Oliver Tambo is recovering from a stroke. (Reuters)

Latin America

28 down as boat capsizes: A fishing boat overcrowded with soccer fans capsized in southern Chile on Sunday and navy officials said 17 people drowned and 11 were missing.

Eyewitnesses said the wooden boat overturned and sank rapidly 30 yards (metres) from a pier of a fishing village near Valdivia as it returned home with a victorious local soccer team and fans.

A navy spokesman said the vessel was packed with up to 150 people when it capsized in the estuary of the Calle-Calle river, 16 miles (25 kms) downstream from Valdivia. (Reuters)

Kidnapped doctor freed: A physician whose kidnapping triggered hospital strikes was freed Sunday, a relative said in Guatemala City.

Dr Carmen Angelica Valenzuela Argueta, 35, left the country for an undisclosed location soon after her release, the relative said. The relative spoke on condition of anonymity.

She was abducted by armed men from the parking lot of a softball field on Feb 10. No group has claimed responsibility. (AP)

Disputed Comoros election scrapped

MAYOTTE, Comoro Islands, Feb 19, (AP): Interim leader Said Mohamed Djohar has scrapped Sunday's disputed presidential elections in the Comoro Republic and rejected opposition calls for his resignation, according to reports today.

The French news agency Agence-France Presse, citing unidentified sources on the French island of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean archipelago, said Djohar promised late Sunday to reschedule the balloting.

"They should either be next Sunday or the Sunday afterward, but they haven't decided yet," said a spokesman at the Comoran embassy in Paris on condition he not be identified. No official result from Sunday's voting was posted.

Widespread confusion and scattered violence marred Sunday's balloting between Djohar and an array of opposition candidates, Comoran opposition sources in Paris said.

Disputes centred around missing ballot boxes and incomplete registration rolls, and a system where opposition voters were stamped with indelible ink and those supporting Djohar stamped with one that washed off, permitting them to vote again, the sources said.

Elections became necessary when President Ahmed Abdallah Abderrahmane was shot and killed Nov 26 in a dispute with French mercenary Bob Denard, who commanded the European-offered presidential guard.

Djohar, chief justice of the Supreme Court, became interim president in line with the country's constitution. He had called for balloting on Sunday and runoff elections a week later if needed.

Besides Djohar, candidates included former ministers Ali Mrouadine and Abbas Adjouso, former president of the national assembly Mohamed Teki, and Said Ali Khamel, grandson of the island chain's last sultan.

Moustoufa Said Cheikh, who had been jailed by Abdallah for his role in a 1985 coup attempt put down by Denard, also ran.

Denard, who deposed Abdallah and later returned him to power in coups during the 1970s, has admitted being in the room when the president was killed but said the shooting was an accident.

Damaged tanker Trader departs

CALIFORNIA, Feb 19: The patched-up tanker American Trader has left port for San Francisco, where it will undergo final repairs to a gashed hull that leaked 400,000 gallons of oil off southern California.

The ship left the port of Long Beach late Sunday afternoon, after inspectors ruled it had been made seaworthy by temporary repairs, said US coast guard petty officer Elizabeth Neely.

Lesotho, a tiny landlocked mountain kingdom surrounded by South Africa and its tribal homeland of Transkei, gained independence from Britain in October 1966. In January 1986, chief Leabua Jonathan who ruled Lesotho from its independence was ousted in a bloodless coup led by Lekhanya.

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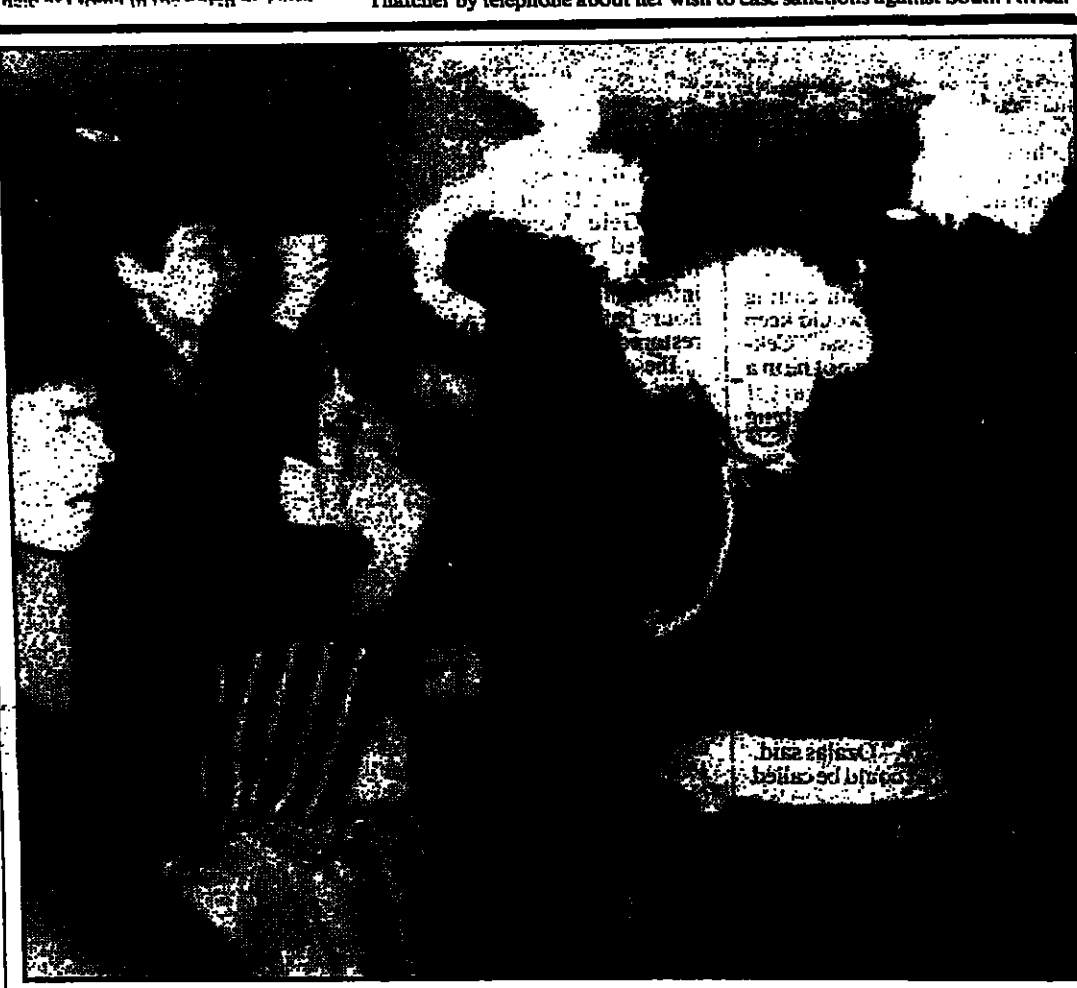
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Waltz for democracy

A delegate of the Mongolian Democratic Congress, dressed in traditional clothes, celebrates with supporters in Ulan Bator at the close of a meeting. The

Congress, the first such non-communist body in Mongolia, called for the resignation of the entire politburo and a multi-party system for the remote country. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nigeria alarm

Population growing

LAGOS, Feb 19, (AP): Population experts alarmed by lack of response to birth control programmes are calling for the government to pass a law limiting families to four children, the Nigerian Guardian reported yesterday.

The independent newspaper said official projections based on an estimated national average of every woman bearing seven children indicate it would take at least 20 years before any population policy makes an impact on a nation growing at 3.4 per cent.

Nigeria's population is the largest in Africa and one of the fastest growing in the world.

"The nation's population is difficult to control because the momentum for the present growth rate is already established," the newspaper quoted Dr. A.B. Sulaiman as saying.

Sulaiman, the architect of Nigeria's birth control programme and executive director of its planned parenthood federation, told the newspaper he believed there was a national desire to reduce population growth, but doubted it could succeed while at least 50 per cent of the population is youthful and sexually active.

The Guardian quoted official statistics as projecting the population estimated at 115 million in 1990 would increase to 165 million within a decade.



People's choice

Burmese youths stare at a portrait of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, under house arrest for the last seven months and barred yesterday from standing in national election. Suu Kyi, is the most popular and revered of several dissidents who emerged during anti-government protests in 1988. (Reuters wirephoto)

Killing of minister rapped

NAIROBI, Feb 19, (AP): Two clergy men yesterday condemned last week's killing of Kenya's foreign minister and university students promised to demonstrate daily until the circumstances of his death are clarified.

The partly burned body of Robert Ouko was found Friday in a cane field about four miles (six kilometres) from his family farm in Kori, not far from Lake Victoria. He had disappeared three days earlier.

"The killing confirms earlier statements by the (church) that there was insecurity in the country," Anglican Bishop David Gitari said in a sermon at St. Paul's Cathedral in Embu.

Anglican bishops last month issued a statement deploring lack of security in the East African nation. The statement followed an attack on two Anglican clergymen, one by disgruntled worshippers, and the other apparently by robbers.

Man killed at fete attended by Anne

BANJUL, Gambia, Feb 19, (AP): Police shot and killed an elderly man at independence celebrations yesterday attended by Britain's Princess Anne, Nigerian leader Ibrahim Babangida and one of US President George Bush's sons, witnesses said.

Senior security sources confirmed an unidentified man was killed but said he died when a gun accidentally discharged.

Witnesses said a policeman aimed and shot at the man as he tried to get into the stadium where the celebrations of the West African nation's 25th anniversary of independence from Britain were held.

Troops deployed in Lesotho capital; three ministers detained; Junta urges calm

MASERU, Lesotho, Feb 19, (UPI): Heavily armed soldiers surrounded Lesotho's government building and arrested three key members of the ruling council of ministers apparently in a bid by Maj. Gen. Justin Lekhanya to consolidate power, diplomatic sources said.

Those arrested were the ministers of defence, foreign affairs, and justice, the sources said. Reports indicated a fourth minister also may have been detained, but they could not be immediately confirmed.

All roads leading to the government building, which houses the offices of the ruling six-member Lesotho military junta, were blocked by armoured vehicles at mid-morning before the ministers were arrested, the sources and witnesses said.

Government workers at the building also were ordered home and all offices, except for those of the military council, were locked, state-run South African Broadcasting Corp. reported. More than 15 soldiers surrounded the building, witnesses said.

The soldiers withdrew after the arrests and no violence occurred.

In a statement read on Radio Lesotho after the arrests, Lekhanya said some changes in the country's administration would be announced shortly but gave no further details. Lekhanya, chairman of the military council and council of ministers, urged residents to stay calm and said the situation in the kingdom remained normal.

Lesotho, a tiny landlocked mountain kingdom surrounded by South Africa and its tribal homeland of Transkei, gained independence from Britain in October 1966. In January 1986, chief Leabua Jonathan who ruled Lesotho from its independence was ousted in a bloodless coup led by Lekhanya.

The military junta installed King Moshoeshoe II as executive head of state and restored most of the royal powers taken away by Jonathan.

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Lithuania to 'quit' USSR

Protest against living conditions, reform efforts

VILNIUS, Soviet Union, Feb 19, (Agencies): Two senior communists predict that Lithuania will proclaim its independence from the Soviet Union before the end of 1990, making it the first of Moscow's rebel republics to attempt peaceful secession.

In the latest sign of the strength of separatist feeling in the Baltic republic, Romualdas Ozalas, a member of the Lithuanian party's ruling body, said a new Parliament, due to be elected on Saturday, would probably take the final step.

Lithuanian central committee member Algimantas Cekuolis said resistance by hard-liners in Moscow to demands for autonomy had pushed the republic to press for the restoration of its pre-1940 independence.

"The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet (Parliament) will take the decision on independence," Ozalas said. "It will happen this year, without question. It will happen fast."

Cekuolis agreed. "They (the Parliament) will do it," he said. "What can the Kremlin do? Send tanks against a democratically elected parliament?"

The three Baltic republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — have led nationalist calls for greater freedom from Moscow.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, trying to unite the country behind his perestroika reforms, also faces bloody ethnic and nationalist unrest in the Soviet south and Central Asia.

Cekuolis said the Lithuanian decision might take place as early as July, the 70th anniversary of a treaty between Lithuania and Soviet Russia recognising independent Lithuania.

After declaring independence, Lithuania would probably send a delegation to Moscow to negotiate a timetable for withdrawal of Soviet forces from the republic, the two party officials said.

"This does not mean cutting off relations with Russia," Cekuolis said. "We would not be a part of the withdrawal of troops. We would do everything to keep relations with Russia."

An independent Lithuania would allow Soviet access to Baltic ports, he said.

The two men said the ruling Communist Party would follow the example of eastern European Communist parties and change its name after secession.

"It should remain communist for the negotiations in Moscow, because our party needs to negotiate with Moscow as a communist party," Ozalas said. "Cekuolis said it could be called the labour party or the people's party or the social labour party, adding: 'The important thing to do is drop communism.'"

Competing nationalists yearnings sent demonstrators into the streets in Dushanbe and Moscow over the weekend.

Tens of thousands of people demonstrated yesterday in the Tajikistan capital of Dushanbe against poor living conditions and a lack of consumer goods and medicines. The Tass news agency reported. The crowd also protested ethnic violence in the republic, where rioting in the last week has killed at least 22 people.

Also yesterday, at least 2,000 people accusing Gorbachev of selling out socialism demonstrated in Moscow.

The Moscow protest, organised by right-wing groups who believe liberal measures are hurting Russians, reflected the increasing ethnic polarization of the Soviet Union. Peaceful moves toward secession in the Baltic republics and violent ethnic uprisings in the Caucasus and Soviet Central Asia have presented Gorbachev with perhaps his biggest challenge.

Voters in the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan complained about the lack of choice in elections yesterday for the local legislature, the official Tass news agency reported.

10 years

Slow mail

VERONA, Feb 19, (AP): An airmail letter took 10 years and five months to reach Verona in northern Italy from Buenos Aires, Argentina. In the meantime both the sender and the addressee died.

Angela Bedogni, the daughter of the intended recipient reported the case today. Her mother, Elvira Cappelletti Bedogni died in Verona eight years ago. The sender, Elina Cappelletti, a sister-in-law who lived in Argentina, died a few years ago.

As the two men spoke in separate interviews with Reuters yesterday, an estimated 15,000 demonstrators gathered in the Soviet Central Asian republic of Tajikistan in defiance of a ban on meetings imposed after riots there last week.

Tajik radio said authorities did not try to disperse the demonstrators and the republic's leaders addressed the crowds.

All but one of the parties contesting next Saturday's Lithuanian elections, including the communists, want a return to the independence that was ended after two decades by the arrival of the Red Army in 1940.

Romania warns

Striking miners head for Bucharest

BUCHAREST, Feb 19, (Reuters): Romania pledged today to crack down on anti-government violence as several thousand coal miners ignored appeals to stay home and headed to the capital by train to support the leadership.

President Ion Iliescu, speaking on state radio and television from the ruling National Salvation Front headquarters, condemned demonstrators who occupied the building yesterday and pledged to severely punish any repetition.

"We are going to take legal measures and those who break the law will be severely punished because they are acting against national interests," Iliescu said.

He said Deputy Prime Minister Gelu Voicovan had been attacked by the protesters, who burned books and flags and interrogated Voicovan for three hours before army paratroopers restored order.

Iliescu said the demonstrators were "remnants of a dictatorial regime... which left a deep illness in our society, leaving suspicion buried in people's hearts."

The 59-year-old President dispatched Vice-President Cezar Ionescu and Voicovan today to the central city of Petrosani to thank militant coal miners there for their support.

But he appealed to the miners to stay at home, and not to travel to Bucharest. "We want peace, not chaos," he said.

Petrosani coal miners launched an unprecedented strike in 1977 under communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who was deposed and executed two months ago in a bloody revolution.

But by the time the two men arrived there in a government helicopter, two special trains packed with miners had already left and were expected to arrive in the capital tonight.

Reuters photographer Adrian Popescu reported from Petrosani that about 3,000 miners chanting pro-government slogans gathered in front of the town hall.

Urging miners to stay at work and not to follow their colleagues to Bucharest, Voicovan said: "The hoodlums were arrested yesterday in Bucharest."

It was not possible to confirm that soldiers made any arrests after yesterday's demonstration, which presented the biggest challenge so far to the interim government from groups dissatisfied with the pace of reform.

Demonstrators demanded Iliescu's resignation during yesterday's protests, saying he was tainted by the country's Communist past.

The provisional government, trying to hold out until free elections due to be held in three months time, was shaken by the invasion of its headquarters, the former Foreign Ministry building in Bucharest's Victory Square.

The demonstration, which started as a peaceful protest by Romanians saying political reforms were not being carried out quickly enough, degenerated when radical protesters broke through an unresisting cordon of soldiers guarding the building.

Chanting slogans like "Iliescu-Ceausescu," and "the last solution, another revolution," they commandeered the offices and roughed up Voicovan, who had been working in his office.

Voicovan said later he had been punched, and that a small group of "responsible" protesters had saved his life. The army regained control of the building late yesterday evening.



A paratrooper, who is trying to maintain calm during a demonstration outside the government headquarters in Bucharest. (Reuters wirephoto)



Gen. Chitac on his way to see Voiculescu passes by the soldiers guarding latter in Bucharest. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Bomb hit Romania'

Nadia defection

NEW YORK, Feb 19, (AP): Former Olympic gymnast Nadia Comaneci says in a magazine interview that she thinks her defection from Romania may have helped trigger the revolution in her homeland.

In an interview in Life magazine's March issue, Comaneci said her flight to the West in November hit Romania "like a bomb. A bomb for the government. Because what will the people think? That even Nadia leaves Romania. They thought I had the good life, but I didn't. I lived just like the others."

The month after she fled, Romania's communist government was overthrown and dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was executed. Comaneci created an international sensation when she scored perfect 10s at the age of 14 at the Montreal Olympics. In the magazine interview, the gymnast said she had tried to kill herself the following year, at the age of 15, by drinking bleach.

She said she spent two days in the hospital and was "glad because I didn't have to go to the gym."

Comaneci also denied that she was the mistress of Nicu Ceausescu, son of the executed dictator.

"Why people are telling these lies?" she said. "Because I work for him at the Young Communist Party — only to make the money. And I am famous. I am the famous one. So when people see Nicu and see me, they think we are lovers only because they know me. All lies."

She and Constantin Panait, a 36-year-old roofer who helped plan her escape, live temporarily in Los Angeles. Comaneci said she and Panait, who has a wife in Florida, have no plans to marry.

with the exception of limits on news about racial and security matters.

Hungary, as an example of the Eastern European revolution, is listed as "partly free" because its freedoms have not yet been totally codified into law.

The US State Department is to publish its own survey of human rights around the world on Wednesday. In one section of that report, the State Department is much more critical of China than the White House has been.

In the report called "Punishment Season," Asia Watch says, "having blind-

No Nato troops to stay in GDR

WEST BERLIN, Feb 19, (AP): West Germany's defence and foreign ministers today agreed that neither West German nor other Nato troops should be stationed in what is now East German territory once the country unites.

The joint statement issued by Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher settled a dispute that rocked Bonn's centre-right coalition government over the weekend.

The two ministers, who belong to different coalition parties, reached agreement after meeting today at Chancellor Helmut Kohl's request.

The statement said that no units or facilities of the Western alliance will extend over what is now East German territory following unification of the two German states.

This includes both West German troops under Nato command and Bundeswehr troops not directly assigned to the alliance, such as territorial defence units.

With the dispute over the role of Nato cooling down, the debate over Poland's western borders heated up today, with an association of Germans who were forced to leave former German land declaring they will not give up their claims on Silesia, in present day Poland.

"We are not giving up our Silesia," the right-wing Silesian society group said in a statement.

Kohl's failure to recognise Poland's border clearly has led Warsaw to demand to be included in talks on German unification.

"We cannot give up our homeland and 144,000 square kilometres of Germany," said Herbert Craja, head of the West German association of exiles and a deputy in the federal parliament for Kohl's Christian Democrats.

In East Berlin, East German Premier Hans Modrow today told opposition groups he won't go "on my knees" to West Germany for aid and said claims by Bonn officials that East Germany faces imminent economic collapse were irresponsible.

Modrow, speaking at the weekly talks between the government and opposition groups, made the remarks in a report on the results of his two-day visit to Bonn last week.

Kohl's government turned down Modrow's request for immediate aid of 15 billion marks (\$9 billion) to help East Germany's struggling economy.

The desire of the Germans to unite can help speed creation of a united Europe, Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel told a Canadian news conference.

But his Foreign Minister, Jiri Dienstbier, chastised the Christian Democratic party of Kohl for failing to state clearly that the present border between Germany and Poland will remain intact.

The Soviet Union may ultimately accept full Nato membership for a reunified Germany because it would provide stability that is in Moscow's own interests, two top Western officials said yesterday.

US Secretary of State James Baker and Manfred Woerner, secretary general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, said they do not believe objections to full Nato membership voiced by some Soviet officials are the final word.

geoned the population of Beijing into temporary submission, and having installed a fearsome network of vigilante, police and paramilitary forces throughout the Chinese capital in order to maintain the repression, the authorities can now easily afford to dispense with the formal institution of martial law."

Asia Watch said that US President George Bush, "anxious to be able to show some kind of result from his excessively conciliatory policy toward Beijing," was too uncritical about minor changes by the Chinese government.



'Give us home'

A Soviet child waves his fist during a demonstration by Armenian refugees from Baku near Moscow's Gorky Park. Poster reads 'M.S. Gorbachev — where shall we live now?' (Reuters wirephoto)

Leader release denied

Kosovo unrest

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Feb 19, (AP): Thousands of ethnic Albanians demonstrated today in Yugoslavia's restive Kosovo province after hearing rumours about the release of one of the nation's most prominent political prisoners.

The official Tanjug news agency later denied the reports, saying Adem Demaqi remained in jail and had not yet served out a 15-year-prison term he began in 1976.

Gunfire was heard overnight in Podujevo, a town 20 miles (32 km) north of this provincial capital, as Albanians fired into the air to celebrate the release of

Demaghi, a dissident who has spent nearly 29 years in jail for alleged separatist activity.

The release of Demaghi was one of the main demands by participants in large demonstrations that shook the region last month during which at least 27 people died in clashes with riot police.

Pristina radio reported yesterday that authorities had released Demaghi, a 53-year-old sociologist.

More than 20,000 people gathered to greet him in the village of Ljupce near Podujevo, and thousands more were proceeding there in hope of seeing him, said Sefki Ukai, a local reporter.

Kopp criminal trial opens

First case against a Swiss minister

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Feb 19, (AP): Former Justice Minister Elisabeth Kopp, who had been Switzerland's only woman cabinet minister, went on trial today on charges she illegally tipped her husband about a drug money probe.

In the first criminal case against a government minister in Swiss history, Kopp is accused of breaking official secrets laws in the case. Also charged are her former personal assistant and another ministry aide.

Kopp, 53, has denied any illegal actions.

The trial is the culmination of a case that has shaken the normally stable world of Swiss politics for more than a year and provoked a crisis of public confidence.

In addition, a political furor was sparked by a parliamentary commission of inquiry into the affair, which reported that authorities kept secret police files on 260,000 Swiss residents.

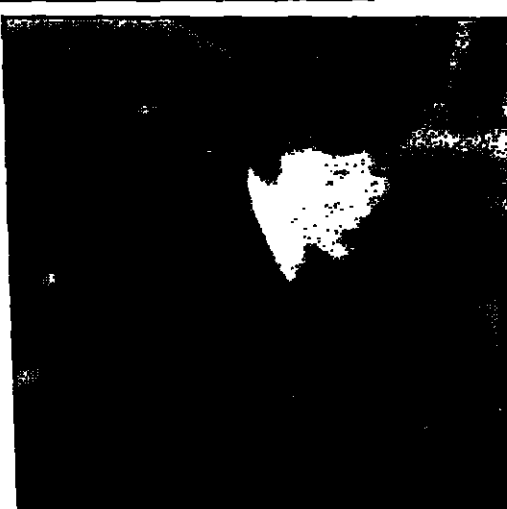
As the trial opened, special prosecutor Joseph-Daniel Pillitter dismissed the former minister's claim that she was innocent because she believed the information involved, passed on by her personal assistant, came from banking circles.

Kopp says she told the assistant to phone her husband with the information, not knowing it was from inside her own department.

Pillitter argued the information was confidential in any case.

Kopp and her co-defendants face maximum penalties of three years in jail and fines of up to 40,000 francs (\$26,670) if convicted by a special five-man jury of the federal tribunal, or supreme court, convened only for serious federal cases.

A separate special investigator's report has faulted Kopp's leadership of the Justice Ministry, which she had headed since 1984.



Kopp arrives at the Swiss Federal Court in Lausanne. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kopp had been in line to become the first female president in a country where women gained the right to vote in national affairs only in 1971.

She resigned Jan 12, 1989, five weeks after Parliament elected her vice president.

Witnesses being called to testify at her trial include several high Justice Ministry officials, among them former federal public prosecutor Rudolf Gerber.

Human rights survey shows, a long way to go

WASHINGTON, Feb 19, (UPI): A survey of human rights around the world shows that the revolution in Eastern Europe has barely moved the needle in terms of the number of people who are living in freedom.

In the annual survey by Freedom House, an independent US organisation, executive director Bruce McCormick puts the current world population at 5.2 billion.

Of those, according to the survey, 39 per cent of the people in the world are now "free," 22 per cent are "partly free," and 39 per cent are "not free."

That is only a slight change from one year earlier, when 39 per cent were "free," 20 per cent were "partly free," and 41 per cent were "not free."

In the definitions of the survey, the Soviet Union, despite its political changes, remains listed as "not free," since it continues to be a one-party state where citizens do not enjoy the right to elect the head of their state, and civil liberties and a free press remain in question.

South Africa, on the other hand, is listed as "partly free," since whites have democratic rights and there is a free press.

with the exception of limits on news about racial and security matters.

Hungary, as an example of the Eastern European revolution, is listed as "partly free" because its freedoms have not yet been totally codified into law.

The US State Department is to publish its own survey of human rights around the world on Wednesday. In one section of that report, the State Department is much more critical of China than the White House has been.

In the report called "Punishment Season," Asia Watch says, "having blind-

geoned the population of Beijing into temporary submission, and having installed a fearsome network of vigilante, police and paramilitary forces throughout the Chinese capital in order to maintain the repression, the authorities can now easily afford to dispense with the formal institution of martial law."

Asia Watch said that US President George Bush, "anxious to be able to show some kind of result from his excessively conciliatory policy toward Beijing," was too uncritical about minor changes by the Chinese government.

Kuwait gets clean bill of health

Boost in services only concern: WHO

KUWAIT, Feb. 19, (Kuna): Two senior World Health Organisation officials affirmed here today that Kuwait was void of any major health problems.

Who's General Director Horishia Nakabema, stopping over here en route from an official visit to Iraq for a similar one to Syria, told Kuna in an airport statement that Kuwait's main health concern as indicated by the Geneva-based WHO's statistics, was how to boost health services

to society.

He said that sea pollution, an item which he said was discussed with Iraqi Health Minister Saeed Abdus-Salam Mohammed in Baghdad, is to be reviewed with Kuwait's Planning Minister and Acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi as well.

Awadi received Nakabema, who is accompanied by WHO's Regional Director Dr. Hussein Al Jazairi and the Iraqi

minister on the same plane, at the airport. The Iraqi health minister is arriving here to attend the meetings of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment scheduled to open here tomorrow.

Jazairi, who is to spend two hours along with Nakabema at Kuwait airport, told Kuna that Kuwait does not suffer from major health problems.

He expressed the opinion that Kuwait,

along with the Arab Gulf countries in general, is concerned with further advancing health services.

For his part, Dr Awadi told Kuna that the WHO director-general was only stopping over here for the first time and hoped that he would visit Kuwait soon.

He explained that the WHO official usually visits countries with health problems which is "a misfortune" for other countries.

Jaber heaps praise on press

KUWAIT, Feb. 19, (Kuna): Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah yesterday heaped praise on the Kuwaiti press for its contributions to the country's social and cultural development.

Calling Journalism an extraordinary profession, the minister urged newsmen to champion honesty and righteousness and said newspapers should be "torches that light the way for a better world."

The minister was deputising for His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdalla in opening a ceremony marking the silver jubilee of the Kuwaiti Journalists Association.

Sheikh Jaber commended the association's role "which we highly value" and said that the association was devoted to the progress and development of Kuwait and the Arab world.

The fact that His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister has patronised the association's jubilee celebrations testifies to the esteem in which the Kuwaiti press is held, he said.

He added that the information ministry, acting on directives of HH the Amir, will save no effort in supporting the association's activities.

After speeches by the association's head and representative of the Arab journalists, Sheikh Jaber decorated the association's founders, veteran journalists and chief editors of Kuwaiti dailies and magazines.

Holiday Inns launch new ME programme

HOLIDAY INNS INTERNATIONAL has launched a new Middle East Frequency Programme which offers special incentives to travellers staying at Holiday Inn hotels in the Middle East region.

This new programme enables guests to collect points up to the value of \$100, which can be redeemed against accommodation and food and beverage charges at any Holiday Inn hotel in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Guests receive points for each night's stay at any of the eight Holiday Inns in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman (Muscat, Salalah), Saudi Arabia (Al Jubail, Jeddah, Yanbu) and United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi).

Once they have collected a total of six points, guests can either redeem them for the value of \$25 or continue collecting until they have 12 (= US\$50) or 18 (= US\$100) points.



Baksami portrays women

Women and Kuwaiti tradition are the main two themes of Thuraia Al Baksami's new exhibition that opened Saturday at Ghadir Gallery.

Most of the 19 paintings show a deep perception of women's feelings and how they react to life around them. "Gone Diving" tells the story of one of hundreds of Kuwaiti women who used to be left behind by their husbands for more than six months at a time while they dove for pearl oysters in Gulf waters. The features of the young woman and her slightly tilted head show deep sadness. A framed picture of her husband hangs in the background.

Two paintings, one of a man and another of a

woman, show how different the two genders react after "committing sin." Baksami calls the two acrylic paintings "Guilty." The woman has her head down and eyes closed. She looks like she is full of remorse and regret. The young man does not show any such feelings.

Baksami is a member of Kuwaiti Formative Society. She studied art in Cairo, Moscow and Senegal and participated in exhibitions in Moscow, Qatar, Baghdad, Saudi Arabia, Czechoslovakia, Zaire, Tunis and Switzerland.

The exhibition will be open till March 15. — DAH

Administrative sector

Need to create better management: officials

A LOCAL daily interviewed a number of senior government employees and university professors to highlight their opinion on the development process at different government administrative sectors.

Director of Sabah Hospital, Dr Adel Al Khatrash described administrative development to be working towards improving technical and administrative capabilities through training newly employed and senior employees. He said that the development process should aim at improving employees abilities and performance in addition to modernising systems and rules depending on the decentralised system.

Deputy director of Addan Hospital, Dr Adnan Abdul Kareem Al Eidan believes that administrative development should be able to create better management in order to better use human and financial resources with the least cost.

On the other hand, educational personnel had their own views on the definition of administrative development. Dr Najat Al Mutawa, the editor of Al Afaq magazine stated that

administrative development should establish and develop individual capabilities through training to match the latest developments in the field.

Human element

The dean of the Health Sciences College at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Fawziya Mulla Husain stated that administrative development should lead to improvement of services provided by different sectors to the public. She added development requires giving people better ideas about employees abilities and not their posts. She pointed out that the human element is the essential part of any development.

Dr Masooma Al Mubarak from Kuwait University Commerce, Economy and Political Sciences College said that in her personal view, administrative development is improving performance and increasing the productivity of employees, at the same time applying more feasible methods in using time and resources. She added that it is vital to distribute employees among posts according to their

specialities.

The assistant general secretary of the Higher Housing Council Ahmad Al Daqas defined administrative development as upgrading the level of administrative services provided by the government to beneficiaries. The director of Sabah Hospital stated that so far administrative development has achieved some improvements at some ministries and led towards decentralisation among some government interests. He stated that these accomplishments are represented in the formation of citizens service offices at the ministries.

Advantages

He added that constant exchange of posts at ministries is considered to be a disadvantage and an advantage at the same time. He indicated exchange of posts becomes more important in case many unresolved problems exist at a particular work area. He pointed out that at some areas, work rules and systems should be altered in order to reach better results. He stated that stability of posts gives officials the opportunity to be more creative and loyal to their jobs. He added that unorganised exchange of posts confuses work flow in most situations.

On the other hand, assistant of Addan Hospital stated that administrative development is considered a complex process. He added training to improve employees performance should take enough time and effort. He stressed that in order to achieve maximum development levels, guidance programmes should be organised along with adequate planning. He said that it is still premature to judge whether the currently applied development process has achieved its sought purposes.

Dean of the Health Sciences College at The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training said that development requires constant efforts and not a temporary one. Administrative circulation of posts among officials should be built upon experience and research.

Municipal services to expand in 1990-95

By Jamal Ameen

ACTING Director General of Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali Al Sabah has told Arab Times/Seyassah that the municipality will establish new municipal offices in all governorates within the framework of its next five-year plan.

He said that the short and long-term plans involved planning and drawing up urban expansion policies, based on a detailed study of the Masterplan of the State of Kuwait, which included the development of the city centres, shopping and administrative complexes in various urban sites such as Hawally, Mishref, Fahheel, Fintas and Salaibikhat, and the building of new housing projects to meet the constant growth in population.

The study is also aimed at utilising the investment housing area, providing more housing units to Kuwait located closer to the city, organising old markets, providing new public services, protecting historical buildings and reconsidering existing land uses.

KD200 million has been allocated within the national budget under the public appropriation item in the fiscal year 1989/90. KD100 million of this amount will be designated for settling instalment bonds on approved pricing rates for expropriated real estates, in line with the provisions under article 1 of decree-law No. 131/86. Part of this amount consisted a portion of the total amount allocated for these real estates being KD620 million, the official said.

He pointed out that among the public services to be implemented within the municipality's next five-year plan would be the provision of a seasonal vegetable central market in Shuwaik, design and construction of public toilets and small cattle markets in Jahra, Ahmadi and Farwaniya, besides the provision of a fish, meat, and vegetable market in Jahra governorate and fish and meat market in Hawally.

In 1991/92, a central slaughterhouse would be built in Ahmadi, the Riqqa vegetable market will be expanded, and four new offices for the Municipality would be built in the governorates of the City, Jahra Hawally and Ahmadi.

In 1993/94 a centre for health services would be built in Salaibikha, while at an administrative level training courses would be held along with refreshing sessions for existing staff to promote their skills and uplift their performance level, particularly at the foods and shop-licensing department.

All imported foodstuffs entering the country would be inspected carefully for validity, and samples would be lab-tested for contamination and agreement with approved specifications.

He said that the foods and shop-licensing department staff had a highly-qualified team of experts capable of regular inspection tours to stores and refrigeration cabinets to ensure that all hygienic standards were observed and that all foodstuffs stored were valid for consumption and had not expired.

Extra flights

KUWAIT International Airport registered 2,430 regular and extra flights last month — an increase of 2 per cent compared to the same period last year, according to statistics issued recently by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

There were 124,266 passengers who departed as compared to 112,522 arrivals — a drop of 20 per cent compared to the same month last year. The drop is attributed to the school mid year vacation which began on Jan 27.

Arabs warned of international blocs

Unite under Arab League: Dajani

THE three Arab Co-operation Councils: The GCC, Arab Co-operation Council and the Magharibi Co-operation Council have been warned against being attracted to International economic groups that will appear during the coming years by Burhan Al Dajani, secretary-general of the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce Industry and Agriculture.

Power

He added that our media gives a false picture when it claims that three Arab co-operation councils are considered a step for Arab unity in future and said he believes that this picture is of the past and does not hold good in the future.

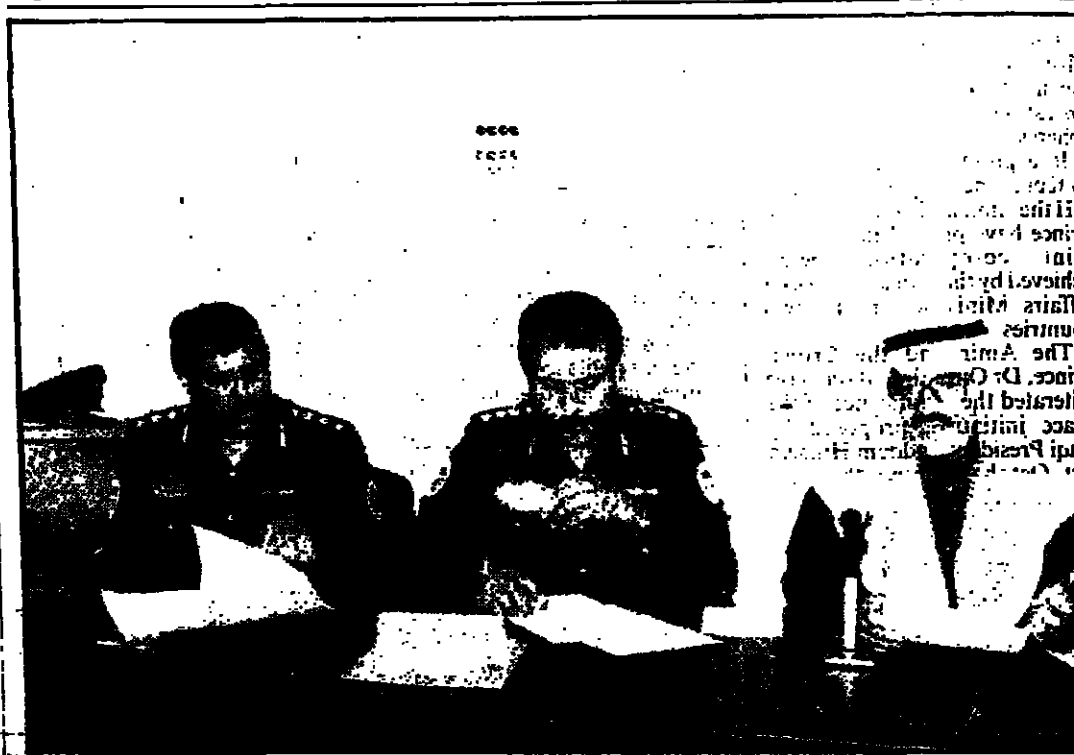
The Arab world should behave as one unit and not three or four, the official said and called on these councils to merge under the Arab League as soon as possible.

Dajani pointed out that the development of the EEC to a unified European market was one of the reasons that pushed USA and Canada to establish a free commerce area between them although USA refuses to admit to this fact publicly. But the reality is that USA felt that Europe is no longer under its control and influence and Europe will soon be a very strong economic power because of the unified market which is equal to US economic power. He expected that this step will be followed by economic unification between the two countries.

Dajani pointed out that what is happening in East Europe is a reaction for what is happening in West Europe and this will reach a fearful stage in 1992. East Europe has failed to find out a unified economic group. The East-European Community (Comecon) economies suffered a

retreat while West Europe achieved success, he said. Dajani expected that East Europe will be re-organised within the next ten years. The Arab Magharibi Co-operation Council is expected to be attracted by the West of Europe: Arab Co-operation Council to East Europe while the GCC states will maintain their strong relations with Japan, Far East and USA.

He called on the Arab countries to establish an economic community as the EEC within the next ten years beside establishing a unified financial stock market. The Arab joint economic bodies should also be activated and developed. Arab funds should be invested in Arab area and this should proceed by removing of all restrictions on transportation of capital, goods and individuals among the Arab countries. He also called to establish Arab joint companies that work in all Arab states.



Call taxi meeting

IN response to directives by the Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, the director-general of the General Traffic Department Brigadier Abdul Hammed Al Hajji invited the owners of on-call taxi service offices to attend a meeting intended to sound them out and learn their views and comments on the ministerial decision No. 421 for 1988 regulating the on-call taxi service in the country. Discussions at the meeting touched upon the

existing violations of the said ministerial decision and Brigadier Al Hajji agreed to offer a three-month deadline to sort out existing violations.

He pointed out that violations occurring after the deadline ending on June 1, 1990 would entail the revocation of the involved car registration and driving licence either or both, in line with article 5 of the decision.

Fire dept to celebrate anniversary

THE director-general of the Kuwait Fire Department Brigadier Ahmad Al-Abdul Razzaq has said that the department finalised preparations to celebrate the 2nd fireman anniversary on Feb 24.

He said that activities to be demonstrated during the celebrations would illustrate the vital importance of the role played by firemen in saving people's lives and property and point out the potential hazards that were ever present in one's daily life.

Speaking during a final rehearsal of the activities planned for demonstration during the coming celebration, he said that the primary function of firemen is to fulfil their humanitarian and national duties.

The director of the Public Relations Department Ali Qabandi said that the exercise included rehearsals of one and a half months of preparations on rescue operations, removal of chemical and gaseous materials and others which were intended to evaluate the performance of the firemen.

Iran message

DOHA, Feb. 19, (Kuna): Qatar's Foreign Minister Abdallah Bin Khalifah Al Atteia received a written message today from his Iranian counterpart Dr Ali Akbar Velayati.

The message, which was delivered by Iran's ambassador to Doha Bager Sakhaei, dealt with supporting and developing bilateral relations.

CGFNS announces exam on August 1

THE Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) has announced its next screening exam on August 1, 1990. Held in 52 sites world-wide, the exam gives foreign nurses a way to evaluate their chances of passing the US licensing exam (NCLEX-RN) before they leave their own countries.

"The CGFNS screening and testing programme spares many foreign nurses the enormous expense and dislocation of coming to the United States, only to fail the licensing exam," said CGFNS president Doris Armstrong. Only 15 to 20 per cent of foreign nurses passed the licensing exam before CGFNS began its programme in 1978. The vast majority of foreign nurses found themselves unable to practice their profession as registered nurses, but often stranded without the resources to return home.

In contrast, over 89 per cent of those earning CGFNS certificates have passed NCLEX-RN since 1978, according to the most recent figures available. Foreign nurses must now have a CGFNS certificate to obtain either a non-immigrant occupational preference visa (H-1) or a labour certificate, a pre-requisite for immigrant occupational visas. Most state boards of nursing also require foreign nurse graduates to have a CGFNS certificate before they can take the NCLEX-RN.

Time

Foreign nurses who wish to take the exam on August 1, should apply as soon as possible to ensure time for a response to any problems. "Because everything must pass through international mail, incomplete transcripts or other difficulties can really slow the process down," according to Virginia Maroun, executive director of CGFNS. "We do everything we can to be responsive, but applicants need to leave enough time for two-way communication in writing."

The deadline for first-time applicants is April 30. The deadline for nurses applying to repeat the exam is May 7.

Nurses interested in taking the exam should obtain a copy of the CGFNS Guidebook for Applicants, which contains all application materials and information on eligibility requirements. Single copies are available at American embassies and national nursing associations or by writing to: CGFNS, Fourth Floor, 3600 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2679, USA. Larger orders are available at the same address for \$1.00 each.

Credentials

CGFNS first evaluates applicants' credentials to be sure that they meet the eligibility requirements. If their credentials are approved, CGFNS then informs applicants in writing that they are rostered for the next exam.

Given in English, the day-long CGFNS exam tests both nursing knowledge and English skills, including listening comprehension through a tape. Nurses who pass the exam then hold a CGFNS certificate.

In addition to its regular testing dates in August and February, CGFNS will offer a third exam at selected sites in November. Responding to growing demand among foreign nurses, CGFNS has also increased the number of test sites by one-third in the past two years.

The Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools was established in 1977 by its two sponsors, the American Nurses' Association (ANA) and the National League for Nursing (NLN). Its mission is to protect the quality of health care for the American public and the rights of foreign nurses to make informed choices.

CGFNS will also hold the qualifying exam in Kuwait on November 7, 1990. Please contact the US embassy for more details.



W.J. Towell at Fairgrounds

Who is the real and who is the phoney? An almost impossible decision faced all the visitors at the W.J. Towell stands at the International Fairgrounds where the Robot show drew crowds fascinated by the performance of Patrick Sjostrom, the Swedish Robot man. He totally convinced the public with his robot like movements.

W.J. Towell agents of Elizabeth Arden, Montell, Decleor, Chloé, Oscar de la Renta etc. offered the visitors gifts and conducted a daily draw for all shoppers, where valuable prizes were distributed to 3 lucky winners.

W.J. Towell is pleased to announce that Robot man will again perform in Kuwait under its sponsorship.

W.J. Towell will also participate in different exhibitions and conduct many draws and offers to the public in Kuwait.

Intermarkets wins Gulf launch for Plax

INTERMARKETS, the specialist Middle East advertising agency has landed what is believed to be one of the biggest ever FMCG campaigns for the area, the £4m launch of Oral Health product Plax in the Gulf.

The advertising, on behalf of the US manufacturer Pfizer, breaks in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman initially using TV, press and a comprehensive below the-line programme which will include sampling, direct mail, trade events, oral hygiene education and point of sale support.

According to Yousef Habbab, vice-president of

Intermarkets, which has 7 offices in the region as well as London, the scope of this unique pre-brush anti-plaque rinse is enormous. "Plax has taken the USA and Europe by storm," he said. "Outperforming even the most optimistic forecasts. In this new market place we are using our specialist experience to launch not only the product but a general oral hygiene awareness programme, reinforcing parallel educational initiatives by government ministries in the region. We are confident that it will be a major success both with Arab and expatriate consumers."

فكرنا من الامور

Facilitate care of handicapped: Mudhaf

Call for periodical amendments to laws

A FORMER minister of social affairs and labour has called on Kuwaiti society to grant more concern and care to handicapped persons. Ex-minister Khaled Al Mudhaf said that society should understand the characteristic aspects of handicapped and extend assistance to these persons to facilitate every opportunity to get professional training to be productive elements in society. He added that institutions that offer different services for handicapped are ideally

suited for sociologists to offer psychological and social services to them. These institutions should offer various services like health, education, economic, professional, entertainment and social services.

Problems

He pointed out that the state offers these services through government and private institutions. These institutions should co-operate to develop services and treatment given to handicapped

beside putting solutions for problems that cause disability, he said.

Commenting on the labour law in the private sector, Mudhaf said that laws should be developed and amended due to changing social, economic and political circumstances. The officials at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour should reconsider the labour law from time to time and amend articles to keep up with the times and to serve public interests, he said.

Commenting on the increasing numbers of maids and servants in Kuwait, he added that this segment of people have different social and cultural values than that of nationals and this causes many problems and crimes. Maids and servants are human beings who have their own social life and behaviour that might reflect badly on families they serve. But he said that this problem should be studied to reduce its consequences.

Mudhaf pointed out that local charity societies are playing an active and important role in developing the cultural and social life in the country. These societies practice all professional activities. But some of them are considered un-official parties that should be controlled. He also supported proposals for the death sentence to people who trade and smuggle narcotics. He also called for an increase in donations given to needy Kuwaiti families from time to time.

Omeed leaves after 3-day official visit

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (Kuna): Iraqi Labour and Social Affairs Minister Dr Omeed Medhat Mubarak today left here following a three-day visit at the invitation of his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmad.

Dr Omeed who was granted audiences by HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah earlier in the day, conferred with Kuwaiti Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmad on means of promoting bilateral co-operation in labour and social spheres.

In a pre-departure statement to Kuna, the Iraqi Minister said HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince have praised the level of joint co-operation being achieved by the officials of Social Affairs Ministries in the two countries.

The Amir and the Crown Prince, Dr Omeed went on, have reiterated the significance of the peace initiative, proposed by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last October, for realising comprehensive and durable peace between Iraq and Iran.

The Amir and the Crown Prince also hailed the "serious and fruitful brotherly co-operation" existing between Kuwait and Iraq.

Co-operation
On his talks with Sheikh Nasser, Dr Omeed said they focussed on various aspects to further strengthen bilateral co-operation, noting that the two sides had laid basis that would ensure continued co-ordination and exchange of experiences in all domains, especially in the field of offering care to the disabled. He expressed admiration of the standard of performance at the Kuwaiti Social welfare centre, saying the centre was carrying out its task through "civilised and scientific" means. Dr Omeed said his ministry had benefited from "several experiences and ways being introduced by our brethren in Kuwait." He said he had extended an invitation to Sheikh Nasser to visit Iraq in order to further boost brotherly ties binding the people of the two countries.

5pc less deaths in traffic mishaps

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (Kuna): Director of Planning at the Interior Ministry's General Administration of Traffic Gen. Abdulla Al Eidan today said death accidents in 1989 were 5 per cent less than the year before. He added in an interview with Kuna that in 1989 road accidents where deaths were registered have totalled 304 compared to 321 in 1988.

Most of 1989's accidents were registered in Hawalli and Farwaniya governorates, both are densely populated.

The official said failure by drivers to observe traffic regulations is the major cause of traffic accidents.

Eidan praised the co-operation among member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council, noting that accident statistics exchanged among member states helped in developing the traffic systems in these states.

Weather

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light to moderate north-westerly wind.
State of sea: moderate
High water: 8.00 am, 6.00 pm
Low water: 12.00 am
Sunrise: 6.24 am
Sunset: 5.41 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 28°C 68°F
Ahmad: 18°C 64°F
Fahala: 20°C 68°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 10°C 50°F
Ahmad: 13°C 55°F
Fahala: 12°C 54°F
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 21°C 70°F
Ahmad: 19°C 66°F
Fahala: 20°C 68°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 82 per cent
Ahmad: 80 per cent
Fahala: 71 per cent



Technological exhibition

The dean of the College of Technological studies Dr Sulaiman Shams Edeen and the director of the Communications and Aviation Centre Jassem Al Zanki opened Sunday the annual exhibition of in-house artistic works organised by the students and trainees office at the college for a week.

The exhibition, held at the Communications and Aviation Centre in Shuwaikh has on display artistic products in glass paintings, silk embroidery mosaic and others.

Attending the opening ceremony were senior officials from the centre and college. Picture shows Dr Sulaiman cutting the ribbon.

60pc teachers not qualified: Ahmad

National committee to eradicate illiteracy

SIXTY per cent of teachers in Kuwait are not educationally qualified, according to Dr Abdul Rahman Al Ahmad, dean of the faculty of education at Kuwait University.

Speaking at a seminar held at Kuwait Teachers Society, Ahmad said that 85 per cent of students of the faculty of education are females which translated in effect means that it is difficult to Kuwaitise the teaching staff at boys schools.

He commented that in advanced countries, holders of Masters and Doctorate degrees teach at primary schools and kindergarten stages. These are the formative years of learning and vital to the right development of education. Diploma holders teach at intermediate schools and those with bachelor degrees teach in secondary schools.

However, Ahmad said that in Kuwait the opposite is the rule. He added that in Kuwait, there are 607 schools with 203,411 Kuwaiti pupils and 163,249 non-Kuwaiti, with corresponding 11,859 Kuwaiti teachers and 27,834 non-Kuwaiti teachers in the government schools.

On the performance level of pupils, the officials said that 15 to 16 per cent of pupils in government schools failed in exams and repeated the scholastic year in 1987/1988. The present curriculum is not suitable to the latest scientific developments and should be subject to scientific revision, the official said.

Costs
Meanwhile, Dr Basheer Al Rasheedi from the faculty of education said that each pupil in government schools costs about KD600 a year. About 22,000 pupils fail in exams, repeat the scholastic year or leave school every year. These pupils cost about KD13.2 million a year which are wasted annually. He added that a proposal was submitted to the education minister to make admission tests compulsory for children who will join primary schools (first

year). The tests will be aimed at discovering the abilities of these children and not just to accept or refuse them. This project costs about KDI million he pointed out.

The project in case of being applied will expose problems in pupils, teachers or curriculums. He added that some teachers do not know how to treat children in schools. The good teachers are usually promoted to headmasters or assistants which means that they don't really teach. There should be a special cadre for teachers to allow them to get higher salaries that are more even the education minister. At Kuwait University, the teacher can get paid more than the dean of the faculty. He added that Kuwait Teachers Society should adopt this project.

Illiteracy
On the other hand Abdulaziz Al Najdi, director of Adults Education and Illiteracy Eradication Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Education said, organising the World Year for Illiteracy Eradication is aimed at highlighting the dangers of illiteracy and to set up plans to surmount this phenomenon before 2000 AD.

In an interview with Kuwait News Agency (Kuna), the official added that Kuwait has formed a national committee last June to participate in the above international event in response to an invitation from Unesco. The committee comprises about 29 members representing the government and the private education sectors. As of the beginning of last month, it had organised several celebrations to honour illiteracy school graduates and award them financial incentives.

The official said that he will be participating in an Arab regional seminar aimed at setting up broad lines for an Arab unified plan, and hinted that this plan could be implemented during the current decade with the hope of surmounting the illiteracy problem facing the Arab countries before 2000 AD.

House owners allowed to build sun shades

KUWAIT Municipality, according to its recent law, permits citizens to build sun shades outside their houses as also to undertake planting of shrubs and trees, according to a municipal official.

Speaking at a lecture organised by the municipality, Akram Al Najjar said that the law aims at permitting citizens the use of government land outside their homes for erecting sun shades and planting of greenery.

He added that the organisation department of the municipality has submitted proposals to the Municipal Committee to study the feasibility of exempting people from paying KD25 as

insurance on shades constructed outside their houses. Najjar said that the municipality is also studying the possibility of permitting owners of commercial and investment buildings to build shades. The technical committee also processes applications of government authorities and establishments seeking authorisation to build sunshades outside their buildings.

However, he said the reason for hesitation on the part of the municipality to give "carte blanche permission" is due to these sun shades causing obstruction to pedestrians, making it necessary for them to walk on streets

— a potential traffic hazard. Further, he said the sun shades erected at curves obstruct clear vision of drivers and is a potential hazard.

Hussein Al Awadi from the building department of municipality said in the same lecture that area of sun shades should not exceed 3x6 m and maximum height of 2.5 metres. Municipality prevents citizens from building concrete sunshades. They should use light materials according to the specific safety and traffic regulations. Municipality does not allow citizens to build more than two sun shades for each house. They

493 government houses to be distributed

THE National Housing Authority (NHA) will distribute 493 government houses and flats during National Day Celebrations, including 219 land allotments at Quraan Area and will further be inviting tenders for building 1,138 housing units at Quraan Housing Project. These houses are expected to be completed in 1991.

Disclosing this information, Subhi Al Mulla, acting assistant director-general of NHA for distribution and follow up said that the new housing charter will develop the housing services in a manner designed to achieve the ambitions of citizens.

Pamphlets are being prepared which will include comprehensive information on the new charter and these will be distributed to citizens during celebrations of the national day.

Mulla disclosed that the new housing system will accord special priority to orphans and minors and will also allow citizens to contribute to building their own houses if they so desire and to make additions to their government houses.

should renew the licence every two years, he said. Any citizens that wants to build a sun shade should pay an insurance of KD25 for each sunshade, he said. The controller of the organisation at State Properties Department or Ministry of Finance Mohammed Abdul Rahman said that municipality supervised the technical side of building of sunshades while finance ministry puts the legal conditions for insuring permissions to build sunshades against symbolic fees. The citizen pays 50 fils per one square metre of the sunshades per month. The ministry issued 2700 licences for sunshades till now, he said.



HH the Amir receives the shield from Al Ghabid (2nd left).

Kuwait support for OIC commended

Ghabid presents shield to Amir

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (Kuna): Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Dr Hamid Al Ghabid today commended Kuwait's effective efforts in supporting the OIC and causes of the Islamic nation.

In a statement to Kuna, Dr Ghabid said he was keen on coming to Kuwait within the context of OIC celebrations marking its 20th anniversary to express appreciation and gratitude to HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the government and people of Kuwait for the support and effective backing they have been rendering to the OIC to serve Islamic causes.

He said he was honoured by audiences with HH the Amir, the current chairman of the OIC, and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah and reviewed issues of concern to the organisation, including the Soviet Jews emigration to occupied Palestine.

HH the Amir, Dr Ghabid said,

has been following with utmost concern the question of Jewish emigration, and urging the Islamic world to step up efforts to stop this new influx due to its serious impact on Palestinian people's rights and the future of the occupied Arab lands.

The OIC chief said he sensed great keenness from HH the Amir on resolving the problems of Muslim minorities worldwide. In this connection, Dr Ghabid praised the positive outcome produced by the Amir's endeavours regarding the question of Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

Dr Ghabid said his talks with HH the Amir also tackled other issues relating to means of enhancing co-operation and solidarity among Islamic countries, stressing that he listened with great attention to views and instructions proposed by the Amir to further boost joint Islamic action.

Ghabid also met with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Osaimi.

Official sources at the ministry told Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) that talks tackled issues concerning the Islamic world as well as the OIC general secretariat's activities in various political, economic, social and cultural fields.

Ghabid presented Al Osaimi with a token gift for Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the OIC.

Ghabid arrived in Kuwait last night for a single-day visit related to celebrations marking the OIC 20th founding anniversary.

He told Kuna at the airport that he will be offering His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, current OIC chairman, a memorial shield on the occasion.

He added that several such shields have been presented to prominent Muslim leaders.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir receives

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir received today Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Dr Hamid Al Ghabid, who presented to His Highness a token gift on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the organisation.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Acting Undersecretary Faisal Al Saleh Al Muttawa. His Highness also received today head of the Kuwaiti Journalist Association Ahmed Youssef Bebbhani and members of the board of directors who presented His Highness with token gift on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its establishment.

Premier receives

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah today received Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Dr. Hamid Al Ghabid who presented to His Highness a token gift on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the organisation.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Acting Undersecretary Faisal Al Saleh Al Muttawa.

His Highness also received today Iraqi Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Omeed Medhat Mubarak and the accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed and Iraqi Charge d'Affaires to Kuwait.

His Highness also received head of the Kuwaiti Journalist Association Ahmed Youssef Bebbhani and members of the board of directors who presented to HH a token gift on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its establishment.

Arab cities

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah received here today Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem, Secretary General of the Arab Cities Organisation Abdul Aziz Al Adasani and member of Al Jahra Governorate Council Mithan Al Harbi. Sheikh Saad also received a number of citizens and representatives of a number of unprofitable societies and diwanis.

British envoy

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (Kuna): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Osaimi today received British Ambassador to Kuwait Peter Hinchcliffe on the occasion of the expiry of his term of office here.

Discussions during the meeting centred on bilateral relations and Arab and international issues.

Cultural meetings

PARIS, Feb 19, (Kuna): The Kuwaiti Assistant Undersecretary for Finance and Administration at the Higher Education Ministry, Ambar Malallah, arrived in Paris over the week-end for a meeting with staff of the Kuwaiti cultural bureau here.

The meeting was mainly aimed at discussing problems related to financial matters, said the cultural attaché here, Abdul Latif Al Bajjan, who said that Malallah came to Paris on the third leg of a tour which has already taken him to Britain and the United States.

While in Paris, the Kuwaiti official visited the Expolangues foreign language exhibition in which Kuwait is taking part for the second consecutive year, he added.

95pc success rate for transplant operations

DR MUSTAPHA MUSAWI, a surgeon at the Mubarak Al Kaber Hospital, has said that the transplant surgeries performed at the hospital have a 95 per cent success rate during the first year of the operation.

He said that this percentage held true if the organs transplanted were taken from relatives, and that the success of operations performed with organs taken from non-related patients is lower.

Speaking at a symposium held Saturday on transplants organised by the Kuwaiti Transplant Society, he said that the failure of human organs was a problem common among people of different ages and social standings.

He said that there were 100 to 120 patients with renal failure every year, compared to 300 patients requiring dialysis.

The Transplants Division carried out 50 kidney transplant operations each year among related patients and that annual needs for kidneys reached 100, while there was an annual need for 50 livers, 50 pancreas and 50 hearts.

These organs were obtained from patients' whose clinical condition made their death a certainty like in the case of cerebral paralysis.

Dr Mustapha said that transplants were of three types, one involved taking an organ from one place in the patient's body to put it somewhere else on the same patient, such as the operations which would use part of the skin in the lower body to patch up scars in the upper body.

Tugboats float Kuwaiti cargo

CAIRO, Feb 19, (Kuna): Tugboats of the Suez Canal Authority today floated a Kuwaiti cargo vessel which had grounded off port Said due to rough sea, the official Middle East news agency reported.

The 31,000 ton capacity vessel, Al Wataniya, was towed away and was found with no damage, the agency said, adding the ship was able to resume its scheduled voyage.

The agency said the Suez Canal guidance tower had received distress signals at dawn today, with the Kuwaiti vessel's captain reporting his ship being driven to shallow waters by gale-strong winds.

Kisr, Paaet to consolidate national scientific capabilities

THE cultural committee at the teaching staff society at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training has organised a symposium between authority and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research to discuss ways of co-operation in various scientific fields.

Dr Ahmad Al Jassar of the institute said at the symposium that it was important to identify capabilities and fields where the proposed co-operation should take place in order to consolidate the country's national scientific capabilities.

He said that the institute comprised six research departments each operating according to definite research programmes dealing with different fields of virtual importance to the country's national requirements and economy.

He pointed out that the implementation of these programmes was based on the utilisation of specialised experts to maximise benefits and ensure the best possible results. He added that the institute paid great attention to offering fresh Kuwaiti graduates the chance to promote their scientific and research capabilities and promote their contribution to the ongoing research work.

Jassar said that one potential field of co-operation between the institute and the authority is in the area of specialised training as the authority could benefit from the training course organised by the institute to polish the skills and individual talents of its student. The major purpose is to eliminate functional duplication and avoid allocating funds to support training courses that were held on the same subject

by both agencies.

Dr Abdul Rahman Al Muhallan then said that the authority's main function is to provide and develop technical and professional cadres in the country to cater to the requirements of the local labour market and national needs.

He pointed out that the authority shouldered the responsibility of taking steps to revise the existing population combination in the country and minimise the dependence on expat manpower.

He said that the potential formula of co-operation between the authority and the institute would take advantage of the available scientific expertise for utilisation on ongoing projects of national vitality.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

EVERYBODY thinks of changing humanity, and nobody thinks of changing himself — Leo Tolstoy, Russian novelist (1828-1910).

Party in chaos

Sharon makes political gamble

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): Hardliner Ariel Sharon has walked out of Israel's government after 13 often stormy years as a cabinet minister, staking his political future on the collapse of the ruling coalition.

The man who led the 1982 invasion of Lebanon formally resigned from the government on Sunday to lead his campaign against moves toward Israeli-Palestinian talks — and to seek to become prime minister.

"I told the government 'goodbye and see you later'," Sharon, 61, told reporters.

"I am going to start a long march from town to town, to place to place, both in Israel and abroad," he said when pressed for his plans.

Negotiations

After fighting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cautious moves toward negotiations from inside the government, Sharon, a hawk whose audacity has sometimes been termed recklessness, took the plunge into opposition in typically dramatic style.

His surprise announcement a week ago that he would resign turned a meeting of Shamir's Likud Party into chaos, presumably as intended.

Although he said his priority was preventing Israeli-Palestinian talks, the burly trade and industry minister told reporters on Sunday he wanted to replace Shamir as Likud leader.

But so long as Israel's current broad coalition government remains intact he is unlikely to have an opportunity to challenge Shamir.

Shamir, 74, defeated Sharon in a 1984 leadership contest by a 58-42 per cent margin.

The 14-month-old broad coalition government he heads shows no signs of imminent collapse despite periodic crises and threats by the dovish Labour Party to withdraw.

Labour is pressing again for Shamir to give a clearer commitment to Israeli-Palestinian talks.

But despite widespread criticism that it has failed to tackle either economic or political problems, the alliance of Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the Labour Party appears to guarantee continued life for the coalition.

Quit

Sharon quit the government saying Israeli-Palestinian peace talks threaten the Jewish state. "I don't remember as dangerous a situation as we are facing now," he told the news conference.

Shamir has proposed Palestinian elections in the occupied territories to choose representatives who would negotiate with Israel on limited self-rule.

Washington is trying to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo to prepare for such elections.

But Sharon said Israel should tell the Americans bluntly it is not interested. He said Shamir's moves towards negotiations threatened Israel's existence by questioning its hold over occupied Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

Sharon, who ruthlessly pacified the Gaza Strip in the 1970s and had promised to crush the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising if made defence minister again, repeated his view that Gaza refugee camps should be razed and the occupants resettled.

But he said the West Bank — Judea and Samaria — and the Gaza Strip had to remain under Israeli control. "It will be our right to be in charge of the security in Judea, Samaria and Gaza," he added. "And that will be forever."

Sharon, who was not averse to snipping at Shamir when inside the cabinet, will be even more direct in his attacks now as he tries to build broader support inside Likud.

Handicap

But his greatest handicap is not his hardline positions, widely shared by many Likud members, including Shamir.

He has to overcome suspicions that his real goal has little to do with policy and much to do with a thirst for power. His followers, using his nickname, chant "Arik, king of Israel."

Storming out of government was in character but critics say such gestures are aimed mainly at publicity or glory.

In 1982 Sharon, then defence minister, led an invasion of Lebanon that was initially described as a limited action to drive Palestine Liberation Organisation guerrillas away from the Israeli border.

As the war developed into a siege of Beirut and a long, costly campaign, cabinet colleagues accused Sharon of misleading them about the aims of the invasion.

The public outcry in Israel eventually forced Sharon to resign as defence minister. But in a display of unrepentant self-confidence, he ignored demands for his departure and remained in the cabinet as minister without portfolio.

His resignation as trade minister takes effect today but he remains Central Committee chairman in Likud where an outspoken minority appears to support his goal of replacing Shamir as leader.

A shot is heard

Pro-democracy demos everywhere

WASHINGTON, (UPI): The pro-democracy demonstrations echoing through the cobbled squares of Eastern Europe here a long way from the dusty white-washed African colonial city of Maputo the first week of the new decade, when Jose Catorze sat down to write his weekly column "Byway."

But Catorze, a former propaganda minister for the ruling Mozambique Liberation Front, saw certain parallels between the demise of communism in Eastern Europe and Mozambique's own growing disappointment with Marxist ideals.

A week after his column, entitled "hope and an uncertainty," appeared in the state-run Noticias, Catorze was fired as editor of the paper by Information Minister Teodoro Hunguano, who said his column portrayed communism in a negative light.

"Primitive anti-communism... is not a tradition in our country," Hunguano said when he announced the dismissal of the popular 40-year-old editor.

The dispute over Catorze's column in tiny Mozambique was one of hundreds of similar ideological clashes occurring in totalitarian governments throughout the world and Latin Cuba, Himalayan Nepal and troubled China, in kingdoms and dictatorships — as the dramatic events in East Europe unfolded.

When a confrontation between North American farmers and British troops erupted in gunfire at a Massachusetts bridge on April 19, 1775, said it was "a shot heard around the world," Ralph Waldo Emerson's verse, leading to the eventual demise of the colonial system.

International observers say the popular movement toward democratic reform in East Europe may well be a blast heard around the world — beamed instantaneously via television satellites to the far corners of the earth.

Telecommunications

"An earlier revolution, a technical revolution, has made this an era of mass politics," said Robert Hunter, former national security adviser from 1977 to 1980 under president Jimmy Carter.

"The role of telecommunications is changing the way governments are controlling their countries," Hunter said. "Right now, democracies are getting very good play."

In the recent months following the dramatic popular revolts in East Europe that toppled hard-line communist governments.

Over 300 members and sympathizers of the banned Nepali Congress Party were arrested and a half dozen newspapers banned when they pushed for democratic reform in the kingdom of Nepal.

Indonesia's Observer newspaper took daring, if veiled, swipe at President Suharto when it said, "(Romania's) Nicolae Ceausescu was, after all, another dictator who has found his demise in a way that seems to have become a somber promise for rulers refusing to climb off the tiger they are riding while the dismounting is still safe."

"You can be sure totalitarian governments are paying close attention to what has befallen East Europe and the Soviet Union," said a government official in Washington who did not want to be identified. "You can also be sure their people are also."

Observers of international affairs say it is almost impossible for any government to keep the dramatic news from its people.

Cable News Network, which has proved extensive coverage of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the bloody revolution in Romania, is beamed directly to 90 countries, spokeswoman Kistie Riggall said from the company's headquarters in Atlanta.

Radio networks, such as the United States' Radio Marti, aimed at Cuba, and Voice of America, are easily accessible and microwave transmissions have made it possible for international newspapers and magazines to publish throughout the world.

Only North Korea, and to a lesser extent China, have come close to sealing their borders.

China's news reports on East Europe have been terse and infrequent and North Korean President Kim Il-Sung, the longest surviving ruler in the communist world, has kept his country's doors closed to foreign visitors, publications and ideas.

"He has kept people from owning radios and done the most thorough job of keeping his people from learning things," hunter said. "But in general, it's hard to keep a country hermetically sealed in this day and age."

"The question is not really whether people will learn, it's how they will take what they learn and use it," said another US government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In Cuba, Radio Marti breaks into its programme of popular merengue music to give frequent updates on the situation in the Soviet Union and East Europe while the island's communist-run newspapers devote uninspired columns to the latest news, say US observers who have visited Cuba in recent weeks.

But US foreign policy experts who monitor the Caribbean island say it is not ripe for revolt and



Fidel Castro has adamantly maintained he will toe an ideologically pure communist line.

The Cuban government, like many others, may not be democratic, but it is generally popular international observers say.

"But government's without popular support, whether they are democratic or non-democratic by our standards, will be in increasing trouble," predicted Hunter, now at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"We see it starting already."

In the African republics of Benin and Gabon, thousands have marched through the streets to denounce authoritarian, autocratic rule just as Europeans in East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary did a few short months ago.

"Yes, Africans feel close to the Europeans — not culturally, but they are very familiar with autocratic rulers, the degree of corruption and the hardships," said Richard Joseph, a professor of political science at Emory University in Atlanta and an authority on African affairs.

Some US State Department officials privately worry that East Europe will spark an international tumult, that not all countries will experience the "Velvet Revolution" that was seen in Czechoslovakia as one official put it.

In the Himalayan state of Kashmir, where Muslim separatists are fighting to secede from Hindu-dominated India, dozens have died in clashes with police and terrorist tactics by radicals.

Indian officials and diplomats say the flare-up in the state is directly linked to the crumbling of the Berlin Wall and the demands by fledgling East European democracies that Soviet troops withdraw from their borders.

The kingdom of Nepal has cracked down hard on a struggling democracy movement.

"You have governments, also who are seeing the handwriting on the wall," said the US official. "They are going to change before they end up like Ceausescu."

The Romanian dictator was tried and executed by firing squad on Christmas Day and the televised image of his body, covered with mortar dust from the bullet-pocked wall behind him, may endure in the minds of dictatorship far more vividly than in the minds of their subjects, observers say.

The military government of Guinea, in West

Africa, has already promised its people democracy in five years and Emory University's Joseph said he believed other totalitarian governments in Africa will follow suit.

Copy

"They will probably not copy Western-style democracy but create a popular government that is uniquely their own, drawing from their own experiences and traditions," Joseph said.

King Hussein of Jordan has in recent months created a parliament that is comprised partly of delegates popularly chosen in the country's first elections since the 1960s and partly of appointees he has chosen himself.

"Arab countries really don't have a history of democracy so it's doubtful they will follow the American-style model," said the US official.

Foreign policy experts said the real move toward worldwide democratic reform may not come from pressure from the masses, but pressure from the world economy.

With the political changes, the remaining communist countries will have fewer ideologically similar partners that would provide preferential trade status.

The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the East bloc trade group dubbed Comecon, recently approved reforms toward a free market system that will have a severe impact on Cuba, which has few quality goods to sell and little hard currency with which to buy.

"The model of a centrally planned economy has proven ineffective and a dismal failure," said the US official in Washington. "They (totalitarian governments) are going to face the more immediate problem of disrupted trade and aid factors."

"There is this external pressure, and the air of worry may be coming from the ramifications of the short-term economic sense rather than the long-term political sense," he said.

Not everyone agrees on how the changes sweeping Eastern Europe will affect the rest of the world, but observers said they believe the fallout will come quickly.

"It's almost as if history is this electronic age is on fast forward, they say.

The changes they are demanding were going to come anyway," Joseph said. "East Europe just accelerated the process."

Letters to the editor

Automatic systems

THE moral responsibility of the recent air crash of A-320 with advance automatic systems in Bangalore, although has been accepted by the chairman of Indian Airlines, but in the background of rumours of mismanagement, inadequate supervision and, moreover, to top it off in today's newspaper, accusations of lack of training of pilots, the fact of the matter is that the truth lies in the failure of fly-by-wire technology.

In a clear weather, without any signs of emergency, the crash of the sophisticated aircraft may have occurred because the pilot tried to change the mode from computer to manual.

It is not fair to suggest, as reported in H.S. Rao's letter of Feb 18, that the accident was caused due to lack of training of the pilot.

The crash of a sophisticated aircraft is not unprecedented. The A-320 fly-by-wire system and its computer were initially suspect last June after one of the planes crashed at an air-show in France killing three people and injuring fifty.

Although an official enquiry exonerated the system and pinned the blame on the pilot, the new control programme known as fly-by-wire has wide application in military aircraft, but is for the first time being used by Airbus Industrie of Toulouse, manufacturer of the A-320 for commercial airlines.

This technology makes possible the utilisation of the envelop protection system under which computer controls are programmed to prevent pilots from making certain manoeuvres that would normally be unsafe but might be needed in an emergency.

In a A-320, pilots can almost become observers watching the computer fly the plane more than flying it themselves. Pilots welcome the new technology which lessens their workload, but this is a controversial issue.

Prevents

The computer programme prevents pilots from flying in ways that might lead to accidents. But this feature, the envelop protection system, also makes it impossible to take many of the extreme and heroic actions that have prevented accidents and become a staple of aviation lore.

The appearance of A-320 and advance generation of the Boeing 747 jet that can be programmed to fly from California to Tokyo with virtually no input from the pilot has given new urgency to questions about the design of the airplane, its pilots and changing role of pilots.

The expert concerns about cockpit design have particular significance for the Airbus A-320, for the first time an airliner is controlled without steel cables and hydraulic devices that the pilot manipulates from the control wheel in the cockpit.

The researchers at the National Aerospace and Space Administration Research Centre in Mountain View, California, have expressed concern that the new cockpit design leaves pilots with less manoeuvrability and they do not have the same grasp of the airplane systems as in more traditional crafts. When something goes wrong, the pilot is not in the same position as in the conventional plane where his brain is more connected to the system.

I have personally experienced this recently when I took a British Airways Concorde flight from London Heathrow on Dec 15, '89, to New York. While landing at the John F. Kennedy airport, the air controllers apparently gave clearance to another plane to take off. The pilot aborted the landing and with a bang throttled off at a 70-degree angle. In spite of Concorde being a state-of-the-art technology plane, it is still flown by wires and pilots are in 'total control' and therefore have so far a clean record with no disasters.

There was a sign of relief from the passengers in the cabin as we could hear the pilot yelling at the air controllers over the open microphones. Had it not been that the pilot was not fully engaged, this could have been an accident which was, otherwise, a near miss.

The recent decision of the Civil Aviation Minister, Aref Mohammad Khan, to send the black box to a third country not involved in the consortium which built it should be hailed, as there are quite a few questions which remain unanswered after the June 1988 crash of A-320 in an air-show in France.

Blamed

The pilots were blamed, but Airbus Industrie of Toulouse was accused of hush-hush enquiries. The US Federal Civil Aviation Administration in mid-1989 for the purpose of certification of A-320 raised a lot of questions on the plane's technology.

So far, 25 airlines have placed 645 orders and options.

By all this, I don't mean to suggest that the airplane is unsafe, but would like to counter Rao's suggestion that the pilots are to be blamed or Indian Airlines' poor maintenance of the plane is to be questioned.

The plane was delivered on Dec 24, 1989, and is one of fifteen A-320s received by Indian Airlines. It has an option on eleven more.

The reports that the plane instruments may have been wired wrong heights leading the pilot to lower the plane earlier than he should have has a lot of credence. In the glass cockpit and fly-by-wire technology computer plan flights guide the airplane from one station to another automatically keeping the plane on course. Information like air speed, compass heading, altitude and position are monitored by a computer and displayed on screen.

In older aircraft, they were read from individual instruments and the pilots had to scan dozens of gauges constantly to check the status of the engine, and the hydraulic and electric system, therefore, their brain was more connected to the system, and this evolution of glass cockpit in which computers and screens have replaced many traditional dials and gauges leave pilots helpless and makes their job impossible to take extreme and extraordinary actions in times of emergency.

Pending the enquiry, for the peace of the soul of the dead pilot, we should all concentrate on the lapses in technology instead of blaming Indian Airlines' management and pilots who, I feel, have died heroically in trying to save the aircraft.

I hope that the general flight data recorder which logs all changes in altitudes, speed and direction, after analysis from abroad, will confirm my fears.

A-320 has been a cause of major discussions amongst the aviation experts and one of the most negative remarks and worries of the experts has always been that in this plane pilots become mentally disengaged from controls and unprepared to react with the speed necessary in an emergency.

In the end, I hope even our own national carriers, i.e., Pakistan International Airlines, would review their firm orders of A-320s after the tragedy in Bangalore, especially, when two brand new planes have met fatal disasters in a shroud of technological mystery.

Iqbal Latif,
Kawait.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1437 — Scotland's King James I is murdered in Scottish city of Perth.

1570 — Lord Hunsdon defeats Leonar Dacre's rebel army, ending northern rebellion in England.

1631 — German Protestant princes form alliance with Sweden's King Gustavus II.

1789 — King Gustavus III introduces pact of unity and security in Sweden.

1833 — Russian ships enter Bosphorus on way to Constantinople to aid Turkey against Egypt.

1928 — Britain recognises independence of Trans-Jordan.

1942 — Japanese invade island of Bali in Dutch East Indies during World War II.

1969 — Disturbances break out in Nyasaland.

1962 — Astronaut John H. Glenn Junior becomes first American to orbit earth.

1964 — Morocco and Algeria sign accord to end border conflict which resulted in troop clashes.

1967 — Indonesia's president Sukarno surrenders all executive power to General Suharto, keeping only the title of president.

1973 — Laos government and communist-led Pathet Lao agree on pact to end warfare.

1975 — Greek Cypriot government calls on United Nations to fix deadline for withdrawal of 40,000 Turkish troops from that island.

1986 — Widespread religious violence involving Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs flares in India, and city curfews are imposed in three states.

1988 — Rain storm triggers floods and mudslides in Rio de Janeiro that kill 65 people and leave up to 100 elderly hospital patients missing and feared dead.

1989 — Amazonian Indian tribes in Brazil meet to protest proposed hydroelectric dams whose reservoirs will flood their lands.

De Klerk, Mandela work together

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, (AP): From completely different worlds, Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk are trying to find a common ground between South Africa's whites and blacks in hopes of bringing peace to their country.

Despite opposition and threats from opponents and extremists on both sides, the two men are forming an unlikely alliance in their quest to end centuries of racial conflict and replace white-minority rule with a power-sharing arrangement.

De Klerk is head of the party that created apartheid to enforce white rule forever. Mandela endured 27 years in prison for fighting white-minority rule.

Background

The white leader comes from a background of wealth and privilege. Mandela lived amid the poor black masses, struggling to get an education and then throwing himself into the fight against apartheid.

"Mr De Klerk and Mr Mandela have established a relationship that could be the key in a society so rigidly divided by race politics," said former US presidential candidate Jesse Jackson after seeing the two men.

In a bold attempt to start negotiations on ending white-minority rule and sharing power with blacks, De Klerk legalised the African National Congress (ANC) and other black opposition groups and on Feb 11, released Mandela. The black leader has responded with peace gestures of his own.

In what promises to be an equally important step, the African National Congress, the main anti-apartheid group, announced from its headquarters in Zambia Friday that it would send delegates for peace talks with De Klerk.

Many South Africans have been deeply impressed by the resolution and vision of Mandela and De Klerk. After years of worrying about an uncertain future, the two men have created hope that the country's divisions can be solved.

Jubilant blacks celebrating Mandela's release showed a new attitude to the white government by chanting "Viva comrade De Klerk."

The two men have expressed admiration for each other and reportedly having established a personal rapport.

Mandela and De Klerk say South Africa's many ethnic and tribal groups must sit down and work out a new future where the rights of all are ensured or face the threat of war.

Mandela, while saying he supports continued armed struggle against the apartheid system, has stressed the need for compromise. Since his release, Mandela has said he is willing to negotiate on everything, including the long-standing black demand of one-man, one-vote and full democracy.

Compromise

"Compromise must be made in respect to every issue, as long as that compromise is in the interest not only of one population group, but the country as a whole," he said in an interview.

He has repeatedly stressed that white face no threat in a democratic South Africa.

De Klerk also stresses compromise. "All of us now have an opportunity and the responsibility to prove that we are capable of a peaceful process in creating a new South Africa," he said.

But De Klerk and Mandela will need far more than good intentions to solve the enormous problems confronting South Africa. The two sides

are far apart on most of the major issues.

The governing National Party says it opposes majority rule because the 5 million whites would be swamped by the 28 million blacks. Government leaders favour a constitution based on "group rights" where the whites would retain some hold on power.

Integration

Mandela has economic and social divisions as just as big a problem as political inequality. South Africa's wealth is concentrated in white hands, and most blacks still live in squalid townships or barren rural areas, struggling to survive.

"Our people need proper housing, not ghettos...our people need a living wage," Mandela said.

But while many whites want a political solution, there are few signs that they are willing to give up their high standards of living and accept a major redistribution of wealth.

Many whites want to keep segregated neighbourhoods, schools and other facilities, but blacks want rapid change and integration.

The two leaders also face opposition from within their own ranks. Black and white hard-liners oppose any kind of peaceful compromise.

The pro-apartheid Conservative Party is attempting to rally whites to oust De Klerk and force new elections. Up to 40,000 angry whites marched in Pretoria Feb 15, as the Conservatives began a campaign to halt the government's reforms.

"It's a complete capitulation. When the time comes and they want to enforce black communist force."

De Klerk and Mandela will need far more than good intentions to solve the enormous problems confronting South Africa. The two sides

ARAB TIMES

Israeli jets raid Palestinian bases

Warring Christians agree to a six-point truce accord

Palestinians protest Jewish settlement

Demo in Tel Aviv as more arrive

BEIRUT, Feb 19, (Agencies): Israeli warplanes today rocketed Palestinian bases around the South Lebanon port city of Sidon, police reported.

They said four fighter-bombers fired eight rockets into installations used by the radical faction led by terrorist mastermind Abu Nidal and the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Lebna 2 miles (3 kilometres) southeast of Sidon.

A Sidon police spokesman said the commandos immediately closed all roads leading to the bases.

"We have no immediate reports of casualties," he said.

The commando groups rarely give exact figures for casualties inflicted in Israeli raids.

Meanwhile the rebel Lebanese Gen. Michel Aoun has given a Christian rival 72 hours to surrender East Beirut strongholds or face an all-out assault, threatening a two-day-old ceasefire in their bloody power struggle, sources close to Aoun said today.

A three-man Christian mediation committee, which arranged the truce that took effect on Saturday, said late today that Aoun and Samir Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces militia, agreed to a six-point agreement to cement the ceasefire.

But there was little sign on the ground that tension was easing. Both sides reinforced their positions and a steady stream of frightened civilians, fearful that fighting will flare anew, fled the Christian enclave north of Beirut.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Aoun told Geagea when the ceasefire took hold that he had until late Tuesday to withdraw from Beirut port and the nearby Karantina quarter.

Lebanese Forces officials declined comment on the reported ultimatum, but said Geagea was prepared to negotiate with Aoun to settle their differences.

However, sources close to Aoun made clear that the general is not prepared to leave Geagea's forces intact because they could again challenge his claim to be the sole authority in the Christian sector.

Meanwhile, exhausted and nervous Lebanese queued at fire-blackened shops in East Beirut today for supplies and fragile hope as a ceasefire entered a second day.

The Lebanese Forces (LF) militia announced its readiness to begin "calm and sound dialogue," based on mutual respect and the right to political activity.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 19, (Agencies): Palestinians of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip shunned work and schools today to protest at the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants on Arab land.

Palestinians say hundreds of Soviet Jews, the vanguard of an exodus expected to top half-a-million within a few years, are moving to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, many attracted by cheap housing.

The clandestine pro-PLO unified leadership of the uprising had called the strike in a strongly worded communique against sending Soviet immigrants to the West Bank and Gaza.

"We call for a general strike...to demonstrate our people's resolve to cling to their land and in protest at Soviet Jewish immigration to the State of Palestine," it said.

Arab residents of Hebron in the West Bank said Israeli army jeeps with protected windows were the only vehicles on the streets. Nationalists had spray-painted graffiti along main streets denouncing the immigration.

Ramallah stores were closed except for some pharmacies and bakeries. Workers stayed home.

Palestinians fighting for an independent state say an Israeli withdrawal from the territories will be complicated by settlement of Soviet Jews. They say the government is trying to change the demographic balance of the areas.

Several dozen of Soviet Jews demonstrated under pouring rain yesterday to protest poor living conditions while Israel's President Chaim Herzog welcomed Soviet immigrants who just arrived in the country.

The government denies having a policy to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories but Palestinians say hundreds have moved to West Bank Jewish settlements.

They say many more are being settled around Arab East Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war and unilaterally annexed.

The body of a 26-year-old man was found in a West Bank refugee camp today, apparently killed by fellow Arabs. Residents said Hussein Abu Radwan of Amari refugee camp was a collaborator with Israeli security forces.

It was the first protest against absorption failures since the start of a mass Soviet Jewish immigration wave last year.

The immigrant protesters gathered at Jerusalem's Gilo absorption centre, the largest in the country. Battering a cold wind, they held signs that read: "Until now you did not give me anything, and 'new immigrant, your debt to the Jewish agency is eternal'."

Mubarak, expected to visit Moscow during the second half of next month, was speaking to reporters at the southern Nile-side resort of Aswan during his talks with Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi.

Mubarak said he had sent messages to both Gorbachev and US President George Bush on the issue of Soviet refugees.

Egypt's ambassador to Israel says Cairo opposes the migration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab lands but not to the Jewish state itself.

Instead, the immigrants said, they were given gas heaters which they said were dangerous. The protesters cited the case of an elderly Soviet woman who died last month after suffering severe burns in a gas heater explosion at Gilo.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the time was ripe to achieve the immigration of numerous Jews from the Soviet Union despite pressure, Radio Israel reported today.

The radio said Shamir was addressing visiting Soviet students when he said Arab pressure was raising technical obstacles in the way of massive immigration but it would not cause the Kremlin to change its policy.

The group, which included several recent arrivals as well as a number of immigrants who arrived in Israel two to three years ago, complained that ceilings and walls in their rooms were leaking in the rain and that central heating has been turned off.

Mubarak said he had sent messages to both Gorbachev and US President George Bush on the issue of Soviet refugees.

Egypt's ambassador to Israel says Cairo opposes the migration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab lands but not to the Jewish state itself.

Mohammed Bassiouni, speaking late yesterday, was answering accusations by Shamir that Arab states opposed the arrival of Soviet Jews in Israel itself.

"We declare, and there is an official statement from our minister of foreign affairs, that we are not against the immigration of Jews to Israel," Bassiouni told academics in Shamir's rightist Likud party.



For a dinner cruise
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak driving a private car with Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi next to him leave the Cataract hotel in Aswan to have dinner on a boat on the Nile. Khaddafi arrived in Aswan on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mubarak takes Khaddafi to Sinai

ASWAN, Egypt, Feb 19, (Reuters): President Hosni Mubarak took Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi to the Sinai peninsula today in an attempt to show him that Egypt's peace-making policy has paid dividends.

"Mubarak always likes to take his Arab visitors to Sinai to show them that Egypt's foreign policy works," a senior Egyptian official said.

Khaddafi has repeatedly denounced Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel which led to the recovery of Sinai in 1982.

But Cairo has given the Libyan leader an enthusiastic welcome on his latest trip, aimed at patching up the decade-long quarrel.

Khaddafi, resplendent in a white silk suit and black silk shirt, left the southern winter resort of Aswan on an Egyptian plane with Mubarak, who was wearing a sober business suit.

Two of Khaddafi's women bodyguards carrying AK-47 rifles were prevented from boarding the plane, bound for Sharm Al Sheikh at the southern tip of Sinai.

Relations between Libya and Egypt, erratic since the early 1970s, have improved since a rapprochement between Khaddafi and Mubarak at an Arab summit last May.

Mubarak has visited Libya twice since October and the current visit is Khaddafi's second to Egypt since the summit.

Ministers held talks in Aswan today on boosting co-operation and removing trade barriers. Mubarak and Khaddafi agreed yesterday to set up joint committees on banking and improving trade.

The two leaders are due to go from Sinai to the Red Sea resort of Hurgada. Khaddafi was expected to fly home from there.

Khaddafi and Mubarak, yesterday discussed bilateral and Arab and African issues, the Middle East News Agency reported.

The agency quoted Information Minister Sawwat El-Sherif as saying the two leaders met privately for two hours and then had a working lunch.

El-Sherif said they discussed "Arab issues, especially the developments of the Palestinian issue... also the deteriorating situation in Lebanon... (and a) comprehensive review of Arab and African issues."

Following the talks, Mubarak said he would present an Egyptian suggestion for the resettling of Soviet Jews during his meeting next month with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"This land is Arab land and is under dispute, it is very wrong of Israel to act on its own concerning this subject," he said in comments to reporters, carried by Mena.

Mubarak did not elaborate on the Egyptian suggestion but said the issue of resettling Soviet Jews would top his agenda of talks with Gorbachev.

Khaddafi arrived by air yesterday at the heavily-guarded central Egyptian resort of Aswan and headed straight for talks with Mubarak at the presidential residence.

Machine-gun-toting women soldiers belonging to Khaddafi's female personal bodyguard watched over the Libyan leader, as banners saying: "Welcome to the great leader" blew in the wind.

Egyptian government officials said Mubarak's talks with Khaddafi were "friendly," and focused on improving bilateral relations, the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel, the growing rift between Cairo and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Anderson's sister frustrated

TUNIS, Feb 19, (AP): Peggy Say paid tribute yesterday to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat for his efforts in trying to free the 18 Western hostages in Lebanon, including her brother, the longest-held of the captives.

In an hour-long meeting with Arafat on Saturday, the leader of the PLO told Say that he was doing his "very best" to win the release of the hostages but did not go into details.

She should find himself in a position to do something," Say said.

"Unfortunately, he has no direct influence on the kidnappers, but he is a player in the Middle East and it's my job to approach anyone who might help," she said.

"I was pleased to meet him after waiting such a long time to come face to face with him," Say told the Associated Press. "I was encouraged that he said he would do his very best, which is all I could ask of anybody."

A group calling itself Islamic Jihad, is believed to be holding Anderson and Terry Waite, special envoy of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, who disappeared Jan 20, 1987 while trying to negotiate the release of the hostages.

Arafat received Say during a luncheon with a group of friends and supporters in his luxurious, well-guarded mansion overlooking the Mediterranean in suburban Gammarth.

Say is the sister of Terry Anderson, the chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, kidnapped in Beirut on March 16, 1985 and believed held by Shiite extremists with close ties to Iran.

The Palestinian leader invited Say to sit next to him at the long table and showed her the Arab fashion of eating roast lamb with his fingers.

"I liked him personally," Say declared. "He was very charming and sympathetic."

"I am sure (Arafat) will do whatever he can if he should find himself in a position to do something," Say said.

"Unfortunately, he has no direct influence on the kidnappers, but he is a player in the Middle East and it's my job to approach anyone who might help," she said.

A group calling itself Islamic Jihad, is believed to be holding Anderson and Terry Waite, special envoy of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, who disappeared Jan 20, 1987 while trying to negotiate the release of the hostages.



Arafat talks to Peggy Say in Tunisia. He pledged to help win the release of her brother Anderson who has been held hostage for five years. (Reuters wirephoto)

Najib consolidates grip on power

KABUL, Feb 19, (UPI): Capitalising on rebel failures and new US-Soviet moves to end the Afghan civil war, President Najibullah has launched a major overhaul of his party to consolidate his power in a nation where the case survives bitter opposition from rivals.

"We have in our party certain elements who try to follow the past system and to use force. We cannot eliminate them," said Farid Mazdak, a member of the politburo of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. But, he said, Najibullah enjoys the support of a majority of members.

The regime thwarted a takeover bid in December by army officers, secret police and party members engineered by Muslim fundamentalist rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Some diplomats believe Washington's recent decision to abandon a demand by the rebels and Pakistan for Najibullah's exclusion from peace talks was the result of Soviet persuasion and has helped his government's claims to legitimacy.

But perhaps more basic to his power base is the idea that no other politician in the country is capable of governing with the authority necessary to keep order.

"If the influence of Najibullah is removed, there will be turmoil," a European diplomat said.

Najibullah's ouster would greatly embarrass his main patron, Mikhail Gorbachev, and add to the Soviet president's numerous headaches, something the United States is anxious to avoid.

Najibullah's success is rooted in his defying US-backed rebels for a year without the support of 100,000 Soviet troops, who completed their pullout in February 1989.

He has been helped further by rising disenchantment in Washington with the military failures, fierce infighting and corruption of the Pakistan-based opposition. Najibullah is trying

to drive the wedge further, repeatedly charging that drugs from rebel areas are reaching the West.

With winter snows lying deep on the mountains of the Hindu Kush, the rugged, war-torn PDPA remains the paramount political force in Afghanistan, due both to Najibullah's skill and tenacity and to its 200,000 members entrenched in the nation's military, police, bureaucracy, educational institutions and social organisations.

A massive Afghan government relief convoy has reached a besieged town after a six-week journey through mostly rebel-held territory, resistance sources confirmed yesterday.

MIDEAST BRIEFS



Last-minute bid
Ariel Sharon attempted to name a new chairman of government-owned Israel Chemical (ICL) in his final hours as trade minister, board members said on Monday.

Sharon, whose resignation takes effect on Tuesday, requested an immediate board of directors meeting on Sunday to approve the appointment of Dan Drach, now the director-general of the trade and industry ministry.

DFLP leadership meets: The leadership of the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) met in Algiers on Monday and patched up differences over policy towards Middle East peace moves, DFLP sources in Tunis said.

The differences had pitted DFLP leader Nayef Hawatmeh against Yasser Abed Rabbo, his representative on the 15-man executive committee of the Tunis-based Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), PLO sources outside the front said. (Reuters)

Rafsanjani reaffirms Iran backs Hezb
NICOSIA, Feb 19, (Reuters): President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani today reaffirmed Iran's backing for Hezbollah (party of God), widely believed to be behind the kidnapping of Westerners in Lebanon.

Tehran Radio said Rafsanjani, in a meeting with senior Hezbollah clerics, "declared Iran's readiness to help Hezbollah and Muslims of the region."

Schoolchildren drown: Nine schoolchildren were drowned when high winds capsized a small boat ferrying them home from school west of the Nile Delta, Egyptian police said on Sunday.

They said villagers rescued eight others when the accident took place in the Nubariya canal on Saturday evening. River police recovered the bodies of the nine children, aged between 12 and 14. (Reuters)

KGB on secret Israel visit: A press report revealed in Kuwait Monday that a high ranking Soviet intelligence service (KGB) delegation arrived in Kuwait over the weekend on a secret visit.

The report, in the local daily, attributed the information to a senior official in Czechoslovakia and quoted him as saying that the five-man delegation stopped in Prague for two days before leaving for Israel where they will stay for four days. (Kuna)

Hussein voices concern: King Hussein of Jordan has expressed concern that the United States is moving away from its historic policy of supporting Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an interview with Washington Post, published in Washington Saturday, King Hussein has voiced Arab concerns about the projected influx of as many as 750,000 new immigrants to Israel over the next five or six years. (Kuna)

Al Bashir to visit Cairo: Sudan's military ruler General Omar Hassan Ali Bashir will visit Cairo and hold talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday, officials said.

It will be Bashir's third visit since his 15-man junta seized power last June in a move Egypt hoped would delay civil war in one of Africa's poorest countries. (Reuters)

3 killed in clashes: Kurdish rebels clashed with security police in Diyarbakir province, and three people were killed, the regional governor's office said Sunday.

The announcement, carried by Turkey's semi-official Anatolia news agency, said the rebels opened fire on security forces Friday combing the area around Batikarakoc village, about 15 kilometres (9 miles) from Diyarbakir. (AP)

Malta amends treaty with Libya
VALETTA, Feb 19, (Reuters): Malta amended a 1984 friendship treaty with its neighbour Libya today, dropping military clauses that had strained relations with the United States.

Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami, speaking after signing the amendments in Valletta with Libyan Foreign Minister Jaddallah Azzouz Al Talhi, said the treaty had been changed in line with Malta's commitment to follow a neutral foreign policy.

Jordan to get financial and military aid from Saudi Arabia

AMMAN, Feb 19, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia is to give Jordan \$200 million this year and supply its armed forces with badly-needed spare parts, diplomats said today.

They said King Fahd offered the military and financial aid to Jordan, struggling with an \$8 billion foreign debt, during King Hussein's three-day trip to Saudi Arabia last week.

"It was a very successful visit. The Jordanians seem to have come back convinced of Saudi Arabia's sincere interest in the security and stability of Jordan," one Arab diplomat said.

Jordan received \$200 million from Saudi Arabia last year. Up to then it had for 10 years received \$360 million a year from Riyadh after a 1978 Arab summit in Baghdad pledged support for Arab states on the frontline with Israel.

The diplomats said Saudi Arabia would send Jordan spare parts from its military inventory, especially for the air force, which has had to slash training time for pilots because budget constraints have led to shortages of fuel and spares.

Some Jordanian pilots had to be seconded last year to an Iraqi training squadron to maintain their flying skills.

One Arab diplomat said Amman and Baghdad, which forged close military and economic links during the Iran-Iraq war, were now planning to form a joint army brigade to be stationed on their common border. Officials could not be reached for comment.

Israeli military leaders have said they are not worried about closer Iraqi-Jordanian defence ties.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin linked talk of Iraqi-Jordanian co-operation to Amman's fears that Israel might act on the rightwing argument that Jordan is the Palestinian state.

"Jordan is inclined to depend on

Iraq...and after talk in Israel that Jordan is Palestine, fears mounted in Jordan regarding Israel," Rabin told Israel television.

King Hussein has voiced concern that hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jewish migrants expected to arrive in Israel over the next few years will displace Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and force a new exodus of refugees to Jordan.

There have been some Arab calls for a special Arab summit to discuss Soviet Jewish migration. Jordan has said any summit should be well-prepared and should also discuss broader aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The old treaty provided for exchanges of security and defence information and for Tripoli to supply military equipment and training.

It also committed Malta not to allow its territory to be used for military activities that threatened Libya.

Former Maltese Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bounici invoked the agreement to warn Colonel Muammar Khaddafi of an imminent US air raid in April 1986.

The amendments were due to have been signed before last December's seaborne sup-power summit off Malta but were delayed.



1990: the visit Malaysia year

MOHAMMED M. Daud, Malaysia Trade Commissioner, Embassy of Malaysia held a dinner/reception at his residence in Surra on February 14, Wednesday, to mark 1990, the visit Malaysia Year 1990 to promote tourism towards Malaysia.

The dinner was attended by all the leading travel agents and tour operators in Kuwait, including Kuwait Airways Corporation and Malaysian Airlines representative, Hussain Makki Jumma in Kuwait and Malaysian Airlines, Dubai.

Daud in his welcome speech thanked the visitors and appraised them about tourism potential, infrastructure, hotels, and places of interest in Malaysia, currency, visa, weather, etc. Baharudin Hasan, Malaysian Airlines System Manager in Dubai, delivered a brief message on the potentials of tourism in Malaysia for both families and individuals.

The guests were treated with a short film on

Malaysia, depicting places of interest, economy and people.

Malaysia is a land rich with natural beauty, virgin beaches and friendly people. The year 1990 is specially geared for hundreds of cultural events, processions, thousands of dances and millions of feasts all the year round.

Malaysia is a country in South East Asia with multi-racial segments of population consisting biggest groups of indigenous Muslim Malays, followed by Chinese, Indians and other minorities.

The total population stands at 17 million inhabitants.

To complement the significant increase in the tourist population the number of hotel rooms has increased from 27,500 in 1980 over 50,000 in 1990.

The tourists arrival with larger chunks from Japan, Australia, New Zealand, UK,

Europe, Canada, W.Germany, apart from ASEAN countries, India, Taiwan exceeded over 4 million in the late eighties. The flow of tourists into Malaysia in the nineties is expected to be even larger. However, the visitors from West Asia to Malaysia especially from the GCC countries still remain insignificant, therefore efforts are being made to attract tourists from this region.

A few travel agents/tour operators have already arranged group tours to Malaysia, covering Kuala Lumpur, Malacca, Penang and other destinations, and this effort is to create an awareness among other travel and tour operators in Kuwait to arrange such tours especially now, when Kuwait Airways operates a direct weekly flight to Kuala Lumpur via Bangkok, apart from Malaysia Airlines System operating more than 7 flights from Dubai and Jeddah directly to Kuala Lumpur.

CINEMA

Cinema Tuesday
Al Andulus
Man on Fire
Al Salmiya
Hall Booked
Al Hamra
Batman
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Agnee Path
Fahsheel Open
Challenge of Ninja
Al Jahra
Zulum
Granada
Adikurpu
Sulabikhat
Wild pair
Jleeb
Nokol Shehzada
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Watan Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem Street
Loulia Pharmacy
Ahmed Al Jaber Street
Hawalli & Nagra
Al Kamal Pharmacy
Tunis Street
Salmiya and Ruwathiyah
Al Rashed Pharmacy
Amman Street
Fahsheel & Ahmadi
Bastoor Pharmacy
Al Dabooos Street
Kheitan
Ghazwa Pharmacy
Al Shamali Street
Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opp. Jahra Co-op Society

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.03 am
Zohr	12.02 pm
Asr	3.15
Maghreb	5.41
Isha	6.58

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING
9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news
9.50 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial (part 9)
11.30 Sabah Al Kher news
11.35 Challenges: Foreign cultural programme (part 8)
12.15 Sabah Al Kher news
12.25 News Summary
12.45 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Saham Al Fadh: cartoon serial
5.15 The World of Tomorrow: cultural programme
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Wa Qala Hakem: historical serial
6.45 Varieties
7.00 Cultural programme (part 2)

8.00 Made In Kuwait: local information programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ali Al Damkhi
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Ahlam Sagheera: Local serial (part 11)
10.45 Al Burkan: Weekly Arabic serial (part 10), starring Rasheed Assaf, Fadeya Khat-tab, and Waha Al Raheb
12.35 News Summary
12.40 The World Today via Satellite
1.00 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Diplodoc: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Dartmoor: "Autumn" Autumn in the rural areas and countryside where cattle destroy soil and plants
7.00 Peaceable Kingdom
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law: A weekly local informative programme on

laws and regulations enforced in Kuwait...
8.45 Coming Of Age: "Boy Meets Girl" Sandie's parents encourage her to mix with society and meet other people. She meets "Bryan" who is known as a notorious man!!
9.15 The Story Of Hollywood "The Western" The Wild West as Hollywood imagined it. With guns blazing in lawless outposts that had to be tamed by heros like Wayne and Eastwood.
10.00 The Twilight Zone "The Trance" A man pretends that he is possessed by a wise man who lived centuries before Christ...
10.30 The Silk Route Of The Sea. A special programme about Vietnam... a look at its people, their traditions and its wealth...
11.30 A Man Called "Hawk" "Poison" Hawk has to investigate the death of a number of people after taking a poisoned drug...
12.00 News in Brief
12.30 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah

14 Feb. Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoyne who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 pm or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453255.

Hobby Centre

FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Kuwait Handicrafts

Exhibition FIFTY-SEVEN Kuwaiti artists will display handicrafts at the Kuwait Handicrafts Exhibition that opens at the Regency Palace Hotel on Feb 24. It will be opened by Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Interior Minister. A wide range of handicrafts, ranging from paintings to jewellery, will be displayed.

played. Opening hours 8.30 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Welsh Society

ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dinner, Thursday 1st March 1990 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

Craft Centre

MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

Flute recital

PRESENTED by a group of 4 young Austrian artists at the Kuwait International Hotel on 24th February at 8.00 pm. Winners of the first prize at the Youth Musicians' Festival in Austria, they have recorded for the radio and television in Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, USSR, Egypt and Austria. In the Terrace Room. Tel: 2530000 ext 8039/8040

Robbie in the lobby

ROBBIE 2002 a remote control robot over 1.2 metre tall will be performing in the main lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel on 23rd, 24th and 25th February at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. It can greet, talk, rotate, bow backwards and forwards, tap dance and perform many other tricks to entertain children of all ages. It has made over 200 television appearances the most successful being the British TV Quiz show 3.2.1 having over 17 million viewers and was seen across the world. Tickets on sale now. KD1,000 per person. Tel: 2530000 ext 8040.

Children's variety show

RANGDHANU, a children's variety show which includes a play, will be staged on March 1, Thursday at the Theatre Hall of Kuwait University Law Faculty, Shuwaikh campus, at 6.30 pm. For cards contact 4840759, 4312730, 4312280, 4733106 or 3729425.

Oil and Gas Catalogue Show

THE Commercial Service of the American embassy announces an "Oil and Gas Catalogue Show" at the Kuwait Continental Hotel during Feb 19-20, 1990, between 8.30 am and 8.30 pm.

Catalogues of more than 200 US companies in the Oil and Gas industry will be displayed. Interested firms are invited to attend.

For further information please contact, Abdulla Mejjali, Tel: 2424151 ext 267, Fax: 2407368.

Goan Welfare Society

MARCH 2 - Friday Goan Welfare Society meeting will be held at Ramada Salam Hotel on 2nd March at 10 am followed by a reception at 12 noon for the Goan football team who won the exhibition match recently in Kuwait Goa vs Kerala.

Ladies International League

LIL newcomers: A coffee morning will be held on Feb 26 at the Sheraton Hotel from 10 am to 12 noon. New comers to LIL and Kuwait will be most welcome. For further information please call Ann on 5316905.

Bits 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

Carnival Fiesta '90 - cancelled

YMCA Incredible S.C. Regret to inform that their above function is cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances and the inconvenience caused is deeply regretted. Organisers.

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Act

ACTS production of the Skin of Our Teeth at UAS, Salwa, 8 pm, Feb 27, 28 and March 1. Directed by George Plautz. For reservations please call 5725071, 5731782.

Flag at half-mast

ON the occasion of Shaheed Dibas (Martyrs' Day), the Bangladesh flag will be hoisted at half-mast at a solemn ceremony by the ambassador at the Bangladesh embassy premises, Khaldiya on Feb 21 at 9.00 am. All Bangladeshis are invited to attend the ceremony.

The opening ceremony of the Bangladesh library will be held on Feb 21 at 9.30 am at the embassy premises. All founder/permanent members are invited to attend the ceremony.

Rainbow and Philippine Youth Band performance

ON the occasion of Kuwait's National Day, the Rainbow Band and the Philippine Youth Band will be performing at 4.00 to 7.00 pm on February 22 to February 25 at the Entertainment City, Doha.

LECTURES on Israa & Miraj by well renowned persons at Masjid Al Abu Baker, 30, Shara Istiqlal, Dasmah (near Indian embassy) on 23.2.1990 at 5.30 pm.

Daniella Desert Rally

THE annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik - Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

Tivim Centre

TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers - 2441860 Casimiro.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

APPROB essay competition

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) has extended the last date of its essay competition from 15th March to 15th April. The essay competition on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan" is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD 100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr. Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel: APPROB: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Shaheed Day

THE Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, will hold a cultural function on the occasion of "Shaheed Day" on Feb 24, at 6.30 pm at the Bangladesh embassy premises, Khaldiya. Mr. K. M. Sheikhuddin, the ambassador, will be the chief guest.

All Bangladeshis are invited.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making - For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

SPORTS

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events ... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

7-a-side football

VARCA Sporting Centre will organise its 7th annual one day 7-a-side football festival on February 25 at Sour Grounds to mark the Kuwait National Day. The draw will be held on Friday, February 23 at 10 am. For further details and entry forms please contact VSC members or Tel. 5331940 or 2410461 and 4765070.



Coast surges ahead

COAST is well-known to most mothers throughout the Gulf and Middle East as the brand name of one of the region's top-selling powder-milks.

What is not so well-known is the name of the company behind it - Campina/Milkunle. It is one of the world's largest dairy companies. Its total annual milk production is 3,400,000 tons. It sounds staggering and it is. But to visualise this amount, just picture a lake of milk two kilometres long by one kilometre wide and 1.7 metres deep. You could sail on it! But Campina/Milkunle is not just proud of its size. It sees its role as a company that helps mothers to take good care of their families - in particular their children.

In general, regional and local opportunities were highlighted, assessed and planned for action, aiming to establish 1990 as Coast's milestone for a decade of quality growth.

"We try to live up to the claims of our well-known advertisement, it says coast puts the smile on your family's face. We intend to make sure it really does and keeps doing it in the future", concluded Kasbergen, Coast's Middle East Area Manager.



Water colours at the Sultan Gallery

Shamima Farid, an Indian artist is currently holding her exhibition of water colours at the Sultan Gallery. The pictures show Shamima and some of her works.



Indian food festival concluded

Participants and Al Salam Hotel staff pose at the conclusion of the Indian festival held at the hotel recently.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Sheikh Saad patronises opening of the Central Bank premises



Central Bank building

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday patronised the official inauguration of the Central Bank premises in a ceremony attended by sheikhs, ministers and senior officials. After a speech by the Central Bank Governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, HH the Crown Prince unveiled "the plaque of honour" formally opening the renovated bank building. The guests were later invited to a tea reception in honour of the Crown Prince.

Dollar closes steady

LONDON, Feb. 19 (Reuters). The dollar closed steady against the yen, which was weaker despite news that Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party had retained power in Sunday's general election.

The market was generally thin with few traders keen to do business while US markets were closed for the President's Day holiday and ahead of a report by Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan to a congressional committee in Washington on Tuesday.

Traders said LDP had been widely expected to win the Japanese election and the result was quickly overtaken by renewed speculation that the Bank of Japan would raise interest rates now the poll was out of the way. This weakened the yen.

"The next thing on the agenda will be the expected Japanese interest rate hike which will be little more than an official confirmation of what market rates are anyway," one trader said.

The market has been expecting Japan to lift interest rates for some time and traders say Tuesday's Japanese money supply figures may give it the excuse it has been waiting for.

West German stocks slumped in a quiet Frankfurt session. They were depressed by a continued fall in German bonds as traders are worried about the economic cost to West Germany of rescuing East Germany's economy if the planned monetary union materialises. The Dax index of 30 shares ended 24.47 points down at 1,869.19.

Gold finished a dollar lower at \$416.75 an ounce.

KIO chief recalled

LONDON, Feb. 19 (Reuters). Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) general manager and deputy chairman Fouad Jaffar has been recalled home by the Kuwait Ministry of Finance, a KIO source said today.

The group sold the bulk of its six per cent stake in the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The KIO has taken a number of controversial stakes on international companies, including a 22 per cent stake in British Petroleum after the British government sold its remaining 31.5 per cent in 1987, market sources said.

The KIO's stake in BP was trimmed to just 9.9 per cent in January 1989 after a report by the UK Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) recommended it be cut.

The recall of Jaffar, who has worked at the KIO here for 20 years and has been the architect of its recent high-profile investment strategy, follows the recall last year of four other senior KIO staff.

Market sources say the KIO, which invests money on behalf of the Kuwait government, is one of the world's largest investment funds.

"The order for Mr Jaffar's recall came direct from the Kuwait Finance Minister, Jassem Al Khorafi," the KIO source said. "He has been recalled to Kuwait from March 15." No one had been appointed to replace him, the source added.

Move to boost oil capacity

Baghdad seeks Japanese funds

TOKYO, Feb. 19 (Reuters). Iraq has asked for Japanese investment and technology to boost its capacity to supply oil, industry sources said today.

Ramzi Salman, president of the State Oil and Marketing Organisation (Somo), told Japanese customers during a week-long visit last week that Iraq wanted \$30 billion to expand capacity by two million barrels per day (bpd) by 1995, they said.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Al Chalabi said last month Iraq's export capacity stood at about five million bpd.

The message from Iraq, the oil sources said, was that Japan would receive long-term supply security in exchange for providing cash and technology to Iraq, which is heavily indebted and needs to revitalise its war-torn economy.

Earlier this month, Iraqi Oil Ministry Undersecretary Sami Sharif told Reuters in Baghdad that Iraq would invite foreign companies to finance the development of new oil fields.

Somo's Salman said Iraq wanted Japanese firms to play a key role in helping oil producers expand supply capacity to meet rising world demand, but did not say whether such a move was being wanted from Japan, the sources said.

Iraq's Chalabi will visit Japan in late March or early April at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry to discuss bilateral economic

co-operation government officials said.

Somo's mission to Japan is seen reinforcing a global campaign by Opec secretary-general Subroto, who is calling on major consumer nations to provide financial assistance to Opec producers to stave off an oil supply shortage in the 1990s.

Subroto has said Opec studies show its members would have to invest 10 per cent of their revenues — expected to be about \$600 billion — over the next five years to meet growing demand for their oil.

Subroto said as oil production by non-Opec member nations fell by as much as three million bpd, output by the 13 members of Opec could increase to 56

million bpd over the next five years from the current 23.5 million bpd.

Somo's Salman told the Japanese that the reference crude price of \$18 a barrel set by Opec was an appropriate level for both producers and consumers and that it was causing few inflationary fears, the sources said.

Salman said Iraq was sticking to its Opec-set production quota of 3.14 million bpd for the first quarter of 1990, the source said.

In another development imports by Saudi Arabia, the largest market in the Middle East, fell nearly three per cent last year because of rising domestic production, the official SPA news agency said.



Economic talks

South Korean Minister of Energy and Resources Lee Bon Suh (left) meets Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani. Bonn Suh arrived in Tehran to discuss ways of expanding bilateral relations particularly in the economic field. (Reuters wirephoto)

Former Guinness chief stashed funds in Swiss bank

LONDON, Feb. 19 (AP). Former Guinness Plc chairman Ernest Saunders received £3 million (\$5.1 million) in company funds in a secret Swiss bank account during the time he was leading Guinness' bid to take over a distillery, a prosecutor alleged today.

John Chadwick, a prosecutor from the serious fraud office, told of the alleged payment as he concluded his opening statement in the trial of Saunders and three other men.

They face a total of 35 charges involving theft, false accounting and conspiracy in the course of Guinness Plc's acquisition of Distillers, a Scottish manufacturer of whisky and gin.

The aim of the alleged conspiracy was to

boost prices of Guinness' stock and thus make the company's £2.53-billion (\$4.3 billion) cash and shares bid more attractive than a rival bid from supermarket operator Argyl Group Plc.

The funds deposited in Saunders' account came from an illegal payment of £5.2 million (\$8.8 million) from Guinness director Thomas Ward, Chadwick said.

"Money which Saunders claimed had been paid to Ward so that Ward could pay consultancy fees to other people in fact found its way to Saunders' own bank account in Switzerland," Chadwick said.

British authorities are seeking Ward's extradition from the United States. Ward has denied any wrongdoing.

Chadwick's opening statement was being made before the second jury impanelled to hear the case. The first jury was dismissed after three jurors withdrew for work and health reasons.

Three other defendants are still awaiting trial in connection with what was then the largest takeover battle in British history.

Guinness won the battle in April 1986. But in December it was investigating, and the allegations of financial wrongdoing emerged.

Standing trial with the 54-year-old Saunders are Gerald Ronson, 50, chairman of the diversified conglomerate Heron International Plc; former stockbroker Anthony Parnes, 44; and millionaire financier and arts patron Sir Jack Lyons, 74.

Business leaders see stability

Election victory welcomed

TOKYO, Feb. 19 (AP). Business leaders today welcomed the governing party's parliamentary election victory as a vote for the policies that have brought economic prosperity to Japan, but warned that the party still must do more to bolster public trust.

"I saw this election as a test for our nation's liberalism, and my feeling of crisis had been growing," Eiji Suzuki, president of the Japan Federation of Employees Association, said in a statement.

Eishiro Saito, chairman of the powerful Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), told reporters: "The decision by the people not to destroy the foundation of the free economy, the basis of Japanese economic growth to date, should be highly appreciated."

He welcomed the Liberal Democratic Party's majority in parliament's lower house, but urged more discussions and mutual understanding between the governing and opposition parties for greater political stability.

Shun Ishihara, chairman of the Japan Committee for Economic Development, warned the liberal democrats that they should not think the public has forgiven and accepted all of their actions.

"The party has not fully improved. The Liberal Democratic Party still needs to be reborn in order to recover the public trust," he said.

The business community had been concerned about whether the pro-business governing party could keep control of the government after it lost its majority in the upper house in elections last July. Voters then registered their disapproval of a new 3 per cent sales tax and a widespread influence-buying scandal in which many leading liberal democrats were implicated.

But Sunday's election for the more powerful lower house, which names the prime minister and

controls the budget, anger over the tax and scandal apparently had faded. In addition, many voters echoed the view of business leaders that the opposition socialists were not capable of governing effectively.

The liberal democrats who have governed Japan since their party's founding in 1955, ended with a comfortable majority — 275 of the lower house's 512 seats, down from the 295 it had held in the outgoing house. The socialists won 136, a gain over the 83 seats it held in the last house.

"The outcome shows that the liberal democrats' taxation policy, including their stance toward the sales tax, has been accepted by the people," said Rokuro Ishikawa, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Liberal democrats have promised to review the tax, which went into effect last April, and possibly lower the levy on groceries, rents and some other items. The opposition has demanded abolition of the tax.

Keidanren's Saito supported the review of the tax, but added, "I do hope the parliamentary session will not be disrupted over the consumption tax revision when the taxation system is gaining general acceptance."

Since the opposition controls the upper house, a stalemate over the tax is possible.

Business leaders expressed relief and predicted a period of renewed economic stability following the strong showing by the governing Liberal Democratic Party in elections.

Some bankers predicted the yen would strengthen against the US dollar in the election's aftermath. Business leaders said the results showed public acceptance for a controversial sales tax adopted by the LDP last year.

EEC, Gulf industrialists hold talks

Efforts to improve trade ties

GRANADA, Spain, Feb. 19 (Reuters). Four hundred businessmen from Gulf Arab states and the European Economic Community met in Granada today for their first conference on industrial co-operation.

Representatives of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and the EEC will also discuss efforts to improve sometimes strained trade relations between the two groups, officials said.

The six GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — have been trying to narrow a \$4.4 billion trade deficit with the EEC, their main trading partner.

The Gulf Arab states, which are trying to diversify their economies away from oil production and into petrochemicals, aluminium and refined products, have complained of protective barriers put up by the EEC.

EEC producers meanwhile fear a flood of cut-price imports from the Gulf's fledgling industries, particularly of petrochemical products from cheap local oil, if existing quotas and tariffs of up to 13.5

per cent were to disappear at once.

EEC proposals adopted in December, for a free trade pact after a lengthy transition period which fell short of the Gulf group's expectations, will be followed by negotiations between the two sides next month in Oman.

Meanwhile, Gulf businessmen will seek to boost links with EEC companies at the meeting which ends on Thursday.

Arab industrialists, all the keener to overcome existing trade restrictions because they fear they may be squeezed out of the post-1992, unified European market, see direct investment as an alternative to exporting to the EEC.

But GCC states say they have felt resistance to such investment, as happened in 1988 when Britain ordered Kuwait to halve its stake in British Petroleum to under 10 per cent.

The GCC has also expressed concern that its banking interests in the community may lose out to big financial consortiums taking shape in the EEC ahead of the single European market.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Feb. 19 (Reuters). Australia's share market ended slightly higher after a day of generally dull trading with volume low. The All Ordinaries index finished 4.5 points at 1,645.9, but was off its high of 1,649.7.

TOKYO: Share prices closed lower after floundering in thin trading as fear of interest rate rises took the spotlight from national election results. The 225-share Nikkei average closed 237.72 points, or 0.63 per cent, lower at 37,222.60.

HONG KONG: Follow-through buying inspired by last week's advance overcame

a bout of mid-morning profit-taking. The Hang Seng index closed at 2,968.00, up 28.75.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed firmer over a broad front in active trading and on sustained buying by institutions and small investors, brokers said. The Straits Times industrial index rose 8.46 to end at 1,393.23.

BOMBAY: Share prices fell broadly on fears of heavy taxation in the forthcoming budget for fiscal 1990/91. The Bombay Stock Exchange index fell 10.45 points to 679.53.

FRANKFURT: West German shares slumped in a quiet session, pulled lower as mounting fears about continued price slides in the German bond market prompted investors to take profits. The Dax index fell 24.47 points to end at 1,869.19.

LONDON: Share prices were marked down across the board towards the close, driving the FTSE index below the key 2,300 level. Lack of buyers throughout the thin session seemed to be the main cause of weakness, dealers said. At 1628 GMT the FTSE was off 30.3 points at 2,294.9.

Far from perfect, but Louvre accord quiets critics

PARIS, Feb. 19 (Reuters). Three years ago, when the world's richest democracies signed the Louvre accord to stabilise foreign exchange rates and smooth world economic growth, financial markets said it was a relic of the past like the contents of the vast Paris museum after which it was named.

Now, faced with the challenge of integrating Eastern Europe into the world economic mainstream, officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) states are confident the Louvre pact got it right.

"Fundamentally, we have achieved our objective of coping with instability," Makoto Utsunomiya, Japan's Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs, said recently.

Tom Berger, a former US treasury official who worked on the Louvre accord, added: "It was achieved what I call the macroeconomic objectives — to readjust

exchange rates and to influence the path of growth in the three main countries."

Meeting as guests of the French Finance Ministry in the opulent surroundings of the Louvre museum on February 21 and 22, 1987, the West's financial leaders agreed to a set of currency ranges and economic policies they hoped would boost growth in Japan and Germany to take up the slack of a slower US economy.

The accord was signed by the finance ministers and central bank governors of the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France and Canada.

Italy, the other member of the G-7, refused to sign because it, along with Canada, had not been invited to a preliminary meeting, but it subsequently endorsed the pact.

The aim, like that of the Plaza agreement in New York in September, 1985, was to reduce trade imbalances and

head off protectionist pressures that could usher in world-wide recession.

Three years later, the trade scorecard is mixed.

Preliminary figures show the US trade deficit fell to a five-year low last year of \$108.5 billion and, by some estimates, is perhaps only a third of what it would have reached without G-7 action.

Japan's trade surplus fell more than 15 per cent last year to \$64.4 billion, the lowest since 1985. But many expect it will start growing again.

West Germany's surplus rose five per cent in 1989 to \$80.89 billion, but economists now predict a big drop as East German immigrants snap up imported consumer goods.

Although the imbalances have not gone away, investors in the international capital markets have been willing — at least since the October 1987 stock market crash — to

finance them.

Moreover, the trade adjustment has begun without triggering either recession, or runaway inflation.

"The fact we've had three more years of non-inflationary growth has to a certain extent to be put at the door of the Louvre accord," said Geoffrey Dennis, chief international economist at London brokers James Capel and Col.

And, except for a period in mid-1989 when it climbed too high against the West German mark, the dollar has remained in the ranges set by the G-7, said Berger, who is now at bankers Lombard Odier International in London.

The range was kept secret but was widely believed to be 1.70 to 1.90 West German marks. It hit 2.03 marks in June last year on a wave of buying because of relatively high US interest rates, but has since fallen, now trading around 1.70.

Al Shaab Pakistani School, Kuwait Pakistan Model School (proposed)

Registration of the new entrants for the Session 1990-91 in both (Urdu and English Medium) are being invited for limited places in all the grades of the school.

Entrance tests will be held on Thursday 22nd March, 1990 and Saturday 24th March, 1990.

For further details, please contact on
Tel: 4716671-4718606

Principal

Reuters to end news pictures pact with UPI

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (AP): Reuters, which announced it will end its news picture agreement with United Press International, continued to supply photos on Saturday to UPI amid a public flap between the two news services.

Under a 10-year agreement begun in January 1985, Washington, DC-based UPI has been supplying London-based Reuters with news pictures from the United States while Reuters supplied UPI with news pictures from abroad.

On Friday, Reuters abruptly stopped sending photos to UPI, saying it was dissatisfied with the quality of photographs supplied by UPI and intended to start its own UPI photo coverage. It resumed sending photographs to UPI after UPI threatened a lawsuit.

"We told them they were way out of line through our attorneys," UPI vice-chairman Joe Taussig said Friday.

He added that Reuters offered to turn the service back on if UPI would agree not to sue for breach of contract. UPI made no agreement and is still considering legal action, Taussig said.

Taussig said the original agreement calls for either service to be given 10 days notice of intent to terminate.

But on Saturday, Milt Capps, the senior vice-president for corporate affairs at UPI, said: "Earlier comments about the 10-day period may have been in error."

He said UPI lawyers are reviewing the contract to determine if Reuters had violated it. UPI is considering restarting its own international photo coverage and also studying a photo exchange agreement with other foreign news service agencies, Capps said.

Reuters said it restarted the service Friday night after a senior UPI official called and asked that the service be resumed temporarily.

Capps said no senior UPI official had made such a request. Andrew M. Nibley, editor of Reuters America, said in a statement released early Saturday: "At their request this evening, we agreed to temporarily continue providing them with non-US pictures. However, we will no longer be using UPI pictures."

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Feb. 19. (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29004	0.29079
Sterling	0.49725	0.49795
DM	0.17325	0.17350
Sw. Fr.	0.19435	0.19505
F. Fr.	0.05090	0.05110
Lira	0.00230	0.00238
Yen	0.00205	0.00215
Bah. din.	0.76930	0.77155
UAE Dir.	0.07895	0.07920
S. Riyal	0.07730	0.07755
Q. Riyal	0.07760	0.07790
O. Riyal	0.75305	0.75540

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Feb. 19. (Kuna): Following are the average K.D. interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offer
1 month	8-1/2	8-3/4
3 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
6 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
1 year	8-1/2	8-3/4

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.260
Sri Lanka rupee	7.330
Pakistan rupee	13.690
Bangladesh taka	8.840
US dollar	29.050
Pound sterling	49.550
UAE dirham	0.7920
Japanese yen	17.510
Japanese yen	0.00230

IMF chief sees continued expansion in industrial countries

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19. (Reuters): International Monetary Fund managing director Michel Camdessus said today the current expansion in industrial countries was likely to continue and the twin dangers of inflation and recession could be avoided.

In remarks prepared for delivery to the one-Asia assembly in Manila, Camdessus said he had some concerns about threats to financial stability posed by

the large US and British trade deficits and large trade surpluses in Germany and Japan.

"I am cautiously optimistic about the economic prospects for the industrial countries in the immediate future," he said.

He warned that recent inflation in several major countries called for caution. "It will take great skill — and

some luck — to maintain the correct touch of monetary restraint in the period ahead," he said.

Camdessus prescribed higher savings in the deficit countries, particularly a reduction in the US budget deficit, and higher, but non-inflationary, growth in Japan and Germany.

He said Spain should remove structural barriers to growth by actions

including easing access of foreign firms to Japanese markets.

He said the debt crisis in developing countries had taken longer to solve than was expected but he supported the co-operative debt strategy.

Camdessus said the Philippines had a reasonable prospect of being able to grow out of its debt problems in a few years. "It will also be essential that sufficient financial assistance continue

to be made available to the Philippines, from the bilateral donors, the commercial banks, and the multilateral institutions," he said.

Economic reforms in the Philippines and other countries may involve hardship, he said, but they should not be imposed inequitably. "The poor should not carry the whole burden of the hardship," he said.

On the issue of Eastern Europe,

Camdessus said the IMF is talking with Poland and other countries on various forms of assistance.

He added, that he hoped China, Vietnam and Laos would shift to a more free-market economy. Reforms in Vietnam and Laos which would reduce mandatory planning, liberalise prices, and give state enterprises more autonomy should receive support from abroad, he said.

Plan to strengthen economic ties

Joint committees on banking, trade planned

ASWAN, Egypt, Feb. 19. (Reuters): The leaders of Egypt and Libya, patching up a decade-long quarrel, agreed on Sunday to set up joint committees on banking and trade.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak gave Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi a rousing welcome on his arrival in Aswan for his second visit since a breakthrough in relations last May when the two men met at an Arab summit in Morocco.

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Sherif told reporters after a 75-minute discussion between the two sides that Mubarak

and Khaddafi agreed to establish a joint committee comprising central bank governors and other financial representatives.

He said a second committee would be formed for economic co-operation and the removal of all trade barriers.

Mubarak invited his guest to dinner on a Nile riverboat after an afternoon of what officials said was discussion of bilateral and international issues.

Relations between the neighbours have been erratic since the early 1970s. They sank to an all-time low in 1977 when Egypt and

Libya fought a brief border war and were dealt another blow in 1979 when Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel.

Mubarak has visited Libya twice since October.

Ministers of both countries are expected to meet separately to discuss co-operation in industry and agriculture, a senior Egyptian official told Reuters.

Egyptian Minister of State for Military Production Gamal Ibrahim will be among them, but there was no indication whether military co-operation was planned.

Asked why Libya remained the only Arab country which had not resumed diplomatic ties with Egypt, the official said: "As you know they have no embassies and do not believe in diplomatic ties."

The United States, Egypt's main financial donor, has privately expressed concern at Cairo's speedy normalisation of ties with Libya, which Washington accuses of supporting terrorism.

Aswan is a stronghold of followers of the late socialist president Gamal Abdel Nasser, much admired by Khaddafi.

Biggest co-operation deal

Prague moves towards opening its economy

PRAGUE, Feb. 19. (Reuters): Czechoslovakia's state-run airline announced a co-operation deal with Western financiers today that is likely to be the biggest foreign investment so far as Czechoslovakia moves towards opening its economy.

Neither of the prospective partners, Czechoslovak Airlines (CSA) nor merchant bank Credit Suisse First Boston would put a figure on the deal.

But Michael Sumichrast, who acted as the bank's adviser in a preliminary assessment of the project, said it should be worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

"We have agreed to agree," Czechoslovak-born American entrepreneur Sumichrast said of the plan to revitalise CSA and the 10 airports it runs around the country, with the principal aim of increasing tourism from abroad.

He said details of the agreement, which was negotiated in six days, would be finalised soon after a team from Credit Suisse First Boston in London looked over the airline's assets and suggested ways of expanding its activities.

"The agreement is based within the framework of joint venture legislation," the airline's director General Jiri Nulick, told a news conference.

The government is currently preparing draft laws on opening the economy to market forces. But

Prime Minister Marian Calfa last week ruled out wholesale privatisation.

Skoda, the country's largest engineering concern, is among several firms which have already had discussions with possible Western partners when foreign investment is allowed.

"Czechoslovak airlines is unable to meet the needs of tourists," Nulick said.

"We are not satisfied with the general situation in respect to other airlines... we are lower than 50th in the world league and cannot compete with our existing fleet."

CSA carried almost three million passengers on its 31 aircraft last year but was seeking capital to modernise its fleet and airport facilities from check-in desks to catering and hotels, Nulick said.

"We have to undertake radical changes," he added. "The demand to get into Eastern Europe is growing... Prague may become a gateway to Eastern Europe."

Nulick said several Western airlines, including Air France, Alitalia of Italy, Scandinavian Airline System and El Al of Israel, would soon start or resume flights to Czechoslovakia, while CSA would take delivery of two Airbus A310 aircraft in December and January to improve its medium-range flights.

Talks with contractors, banks

Eurotunnel making progress

PARIS, Feb. 19. (AP): The embattled parent company of the project to build a tunnel under the English Channel said that talks were progressing Monday with contractors and creditor banks.

In a terse statement, Eurotunnel SA said it hoped to make a further announcement later today. Spokesmen for the contracting group, Trans-Manche Link, were unavailable for comment.

"The resolution of differences of opinion between Eurotunnel and TML will permit new drawings on loans and make it possible in particular to pay TML the funds it is due," the statement said.

The British press reported Sunday that the Bank of England has intervened in the dispute, with a compromise calling for reshuffling Eurotunnel's management for the second time in a week.

The appointment of a senior executive to run day-to-day management is widely expected, the domestic British news agency Press Association said.

Reports said he would have direct contact with the Anglo-French consortium to ease friction between TML and Eurotunnel's new chief executive, Alastair Morton.

TLM's senior managers have been upset over Morton's "abrasive" management style and criticism of cost overruns, Press Association reported.

Chairman Andre Benard said last week that work on the project may be jeopardised by a court order that Eurotunnel pay TML 650 million francs (\$114 million).

The commercial tribunal of Nanterre in suburban Paris ordered the payment to TML as compensation for work on the project.

"What is at stake now is not just one month's pay," Benard said after the ruling. "It is really the whole continuity of the project until we can continue funding."

Asked whether failure to solve the current differences would mean the project won't be built, Benard said: "It may mean that indeed, I cannot be sure, but it may mean that."

The latest in a series of spat stems from TML's refusal to sign a financing agreement reached in January between Eurotunnel and creditors that would tide the project over until May.

The agreement would have allowed Eurotunnel to draw upon 4 billion francs (\$701 million) from the 50 billion francs (\$8.7 billion) in new loans granted to the venture.

Eurotunnel's bankers stipulated that they would not thaw a portion of the credit line frozen in October unless differences over project costs was reached with TML.

A Eurotunnel spokeswoman said Friday that TML's refusal to sign means the company doesn't have the cash to make good on the court order and that Eurotunnel would appeal the ruling.

Morton, the project's British co-chairman, was named chief executive Thursday. Part of the same management changes elevated Benard, the French co-chairman, to sole chairman.

The tunnel, being built from both sides, is due to be opened in mid-1993 to rail traffic. About a third of the tunneling on the 49-kilometre (34-mile) project is complete.

China filled this role in the 1960s and early 1970s after Tirana broke with Moscow in an ideological rift which led to its virtual isolation.

Nanos pointed out that Albania "has relatively lower labour costs". The basic monthly wage in Albania is about \$65 a month based on the official exchange rate.

"We have mineral resources which Europe currently has to obtain from more distant places, such as chrome," Nanos said.

According to Western commodities analysts, Albania has produced around 900,000 tonnes of chrome ore annually in recent years, most of it for export, making it the largest exporter of chrome in the world after South Africa.

Japanese and West German firms have shown interest in buying the ore but visiting Western businessmen said Albania's mining and processing technologies need substantial modernisation to make the industry more profitable.

Nanos also said that Albania's farmlands remained relatively unpopulated and that "we could provide 'green crops'

which are popular in Europe," if foreign firms were interested in co-operating in the area of environmentally acceptable food.

Much of Albania's trade until now has been carried out on a barter basis, with 45 per cent of all commerce with the countries of the Soviet-led trade bloc Comecon, and around one quarter of trade with the European Economic Community.

"We shall face some difficulties due to the changes in mechanisms and policies in the economies of Eastern Europe," Nanos said. "We are now trying to expand our trade with everyone who is interested."

With a national income estimated by one Albanian economist at \$3 billion, poor infrastructure and backward communications links and transport and technology dating largely from the 1950s, Albania, with a population of only three million people, is Europe's most retarded economy.

"Wages must be based on results," said Nanos, who some Western diplomats say has been active in promoting the reforms.

Reform should be more gradual: economist

E. Europe taps Harvard for help

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts, Feb. 19. (UPI): After a year spent tearing down the iron curtain, Eastern Europeans are turning to Harvard University for help in crafting new economic systems.

Four Harvard economists have been tapped by Eastern European countries for help in restructuring their economies as they abandon government control for open market systems.

Economists with a long-standing interest in the Eastern bloc, such as Stanislaw Gomulka, a Polish specialist, and Janos Kornai, a Hungarian scholar who teaches one semester each year at Harvard, have a chance to put their theories into practice.

Other renowned Harvard economists, such as Jeffrey Sachs and Larry Summers, have also been asked to apply their own economic research to the problems of Eastern Europe.

Of all the Harvard scholars, Sachs, now an adviser to the Polish Solidarity government, has garnered the most public attention, both in Poland and abroad.

Something of a Wunderkind, Sachs, 36, is known for an uncompromising insistence that economic change in Poland be swift and certain. While others are pushing for gradual change, Sachs advocates immediate transition to a Western market system.

"There have been many attempts at gradualism," Sachs told a packed Harvard lecture room this month before returning to Warsaw. "and I think they all fall apart."

Sachs, who first explored Eastern Europe as a hitchhiking Harvard undergraduate, is pushing a three-point programme for the resuscitation of the Polish economy: An end to "hyper-inflation," — or an inflation rate of 50 per cent or higher.

Opening the economy to private enterprise as quickly as possible.

Bringing financially undisciplined state enterprises in line.

Sachs admits his reforms will mean more unem-

ployment, including layoffs at struggling state companies, and higher prices.

"It doesn't mean that you have to have a bloodbath of unemployment," he said, "but unemployment has to rise."

Adding to the downside, the first few weeks after Poland's radical economic programme was launched on Jan. 1 were not "a happy period because not only did the prices rise, there was nothing in the stores to buy," Sachs said.

Poles anticipated price increases under the new programme and hour-end goods before reforms took effect, he said.

While Sachs sees unemployment and high prices as necessary short-term hardships, other economists worry Eastern Europeans disillusioned by a half-century of socialism are acting in haste and without forethought.

John Kenneth Galbraith, a Harvard emeritus professor and renowned liberal economist, believes "reform should be more gradual."

"One should avoid any undue pain in the process," Galbraith said. "On the whole, the advice that is coming from the pure free market specialists is too painful."

Gomulka, who is also working with Poland, agrees with Sachs' theories but criticises his presentation.

"He is a great salesman, but he exaggerated somewhat the positive effects," said Gomulka, a scholar from the London School of Economics and a visiting fellow at Harvard this year. Gomulka has been closely involved with the reform of the Polish economy since 1985.

Gomulka said Sachs' optimism could be harmful, noting that public support is the Solidarity government's greatest asset. "Our whole programme is based on keeping that trust," he said.

Meanwhile, another Harvard economist, Lawrence Summers is venturing into more turbulent waters. At the invitation of the Lithuanian Deputy Prime Minister, Summers is counselling that republic on the transition to an open market economy.

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) Feb. 19.

Stock	Pr. Close	Open	Close
Alcan Chem	345	346	340.50
Alcan Ind	—	—	—
Ari Fab	—	—	—
Ashok Ley	81.50	80	77
Asia Paint	215	216.25	215
Asian Corp	40	39	40
Auto Corp	20	51.25	51.25
Nat Indes	384.94	379.63	379.63
Bajaj Auto	397.50	395	391.25
Bar Rayon	705	702.50	687.50
Belcon Plast	—	—	—
Bom Dye	189	189	186.50
BK Bond	99	97	98
Burr Wel	85	80	85
Cashmere	—	—	—
Cen Enka	3150	3125	3100
Cen Sps	2510	2510	2475
Colgate	183.75	185	183.75
Crompti Gr	950	950	970
DCM	14	14.50	15.20
Deep Plast	21.75	22.50	31075
Dunlop	61	59	61
El Hotels	62.50	61	62
Escorts	81.50	80.50	81
BSE Index	689.98	679.53	679.53

Bombay shares

Reliance	59.50	59	57.1
Sesa Goa	83	83	80
Shree Wall	—	—	—
Shree Cem	—	—	—
Shri Fib	55	52.50	54
Siemens	105	102	104
SKF	1300	1270	1280
Spice	55	55	53.25
Steel	64	62	64
Tata Oil	—	—	—
Tata Chem	124	123	122
Tata Pow	440	436.25	430
Telco	118.25	118.50	116.25
Thapp Agro	107.75	107	106
Varel Org	142.50	138.75	138.25
Vollas	677.50	660	670
Wincon	22.50	21.75	21.25
Zenith	55.50	53	55.50
Zuari Agro	58	57	58

Compiled by Kuvot-India International Exchange Co.

Nikkei stock average: 37222.60

(-227.72)

Volume: 350 mil shs

Yen exchange rate: 144.45

Stock	CI	Ca
Advantest	5230	-260
Almote	2650	-30
Alps Electric	2030	-10
Amada	1970	-20
Asahi Chem Ind	1160	-10
Asahi Glass	2130	-30
C. Itoh Co	1090	-10
Canon Inc.	1660	-50
Casio Comp	1590	-30
Denki Nippon Printing	2220	-20
Daiichi Seiyaku	2800	-50
Dainippon Ph	2880	0
Daiichi Corp	2050	-10
East	2110	-20
Fanuc Ltd	2110	-30
Fuji Photo	4400	-80
Fujitsu Ltd	1530	-30
Hitachi Credit	1820	-10
Hitachi Koki	2070	-10
Hitachi Ltd	1520	-40
Honda Motor	1620	-30
Ito/Yokado Co	4220	-80
Kajima Corp	2110	-10

-260	Kawasaki H I	1010	+15	Onward K. Co.	2350
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Jerk-proof for bachelors

Granny Karate's recipe for winning a girl's heart

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, (UPI): Mix an airline pilot with a penchant for food and a master chef with a black belt in taekwondo and the result is the recipe for *Granny Karate's Kitchen*, a jerk-proof cookbook for the "bachelor out to impress."

"Granny Karate's Kitchen," a cookbook compiled by Northwest Airlines captain Glenn Carlson of Memphis and master chef George Kral of Las Vegas, strongly suggests the way to a woman's heart is through her stomach.

Carlson said that it's important for a man to make a good impression quickly, and suggests that the best way for a man to show a woman he's different is to cook her lunch or dinner.

The cookbook (Watson Publishing, \$19.95) offers easy-to-follow directions for non-beef gourmet recipes to please today's health-conscious yuppies, advice

to the lovelorn and cultural history lessons.

Carlson, 39 and the divorced father of a young son, said he got the idea for the cookbook's gimmick from listening to flight attendants. He had already written an aviation textbook and is working on a children's book.

"As a pilot, you listen to tons of women, and there is a good cross-section of women—all ages and backgrounds—who are flight attendants," Carlson said. "I've listened to them talk about how all the good ones are taken or married."

"But I know plenty of great guys. They just make mistakes through nervousness or lack of practice or whatever. I decided what women want is a renaissance man. They want a guy who will be able to go out at night in a tuxedo and they want the same guy to play volleyball on the beach in the afternoon. Their expectations are

up there," he said.

Although his father was a massater chef and his former wife was an excellent cook, Carlson says he never learned how to cook. But while he was living in Las Vegas, he decided to remedy that situation. He met Kral, who was his taekwondo instructor, and started on a three-year odyssey of testing recipes for use in the cookbook.

"The recipes themselves could stand on their own, but it's the gimmick that sets the cookbook aside," he said.

That's where Granny Karate comes in. Granny Karate is the wise old woman who dispenses cooking and romantic advice throughout the cookbook.

"I didn't know any men who would take advice like this from another man, so we came up with Granny Karate. For most men, it's our mothers and our sisters who give advice about dating. Men

are conditioned to that," Carlson said.

"If you invite a woman over for lunch or dinner, you're saying that you're not a chauvinist, that you're willing to share the load. Have your first date in the kitchen. It will keep your hands busy and give you something to talk about," he said.

The opening of the cookbook is a letter to bachelors.

"Jerk-proof cooking requires only two skills," Carlson writes. "The first requires you to be able to read. The second requires organisation."

The spiral-bound cookbook is arranged in an easy-to-read format with large print, with almost all of the recipes spread out on two facing pages.

"I've seen so many cookbooks with fine print and recipes all cluttered together. That's OK if you know how to

cook, but it can be intimidating if you're a beginner," Carlson said.

The ingredients are written down like a shopping list, always ending with a dozen red roses.

"That's to remind you to always have flowers, and they don't necessarily have to be roses. Almost all supermarkets sell them nowadays," Carlson said. "And flowers show you are sensitive."

Then comes a list of utensils. The cookbook advises that all ingredients be mixed and measured before cooking to avoid confusion, and if there is a term that's not understood, there is a glossary in the back of the book.

"Take the term julienne, for example. Most guys are not going to know what that means. But if he looks it up in the back of the book and it says, 'cut like thin french fries,' he's going to know exactly what to do."

Cinema

Designed to freeze your blood....

British author Clive Barker's film version of *Cabal*, retitled *Nightbreed*, is peopled by gross apparitions, adding a different dimension to horror.

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): If distinctions can be made in horror films, then the creme de la creme currently is the work of newcomer Clive Barker, whose *Hellraiser* in 1987 reached new heights of dramatic terror.

Now the 37-year-old English author of such eerie novels as *Wetworld* and *The Damnation Game* is poised to unleash a second film version of one of his books, *Cabal*, retitled *Nightbreed* for the big screen.

Unlike Hollywood's more familiar, stomach churning slasher pictures, *Nightbreed* is designed to freeze the blood and keep the audiences sleepless until 1997.

Barker is a deceptive man. He gives the appearance of a solid English citizen, perhaps a BBC public relations man or a research microbiologist. His charm conceals a curious madness that allows him to invent creatures and events that defy sane analysis.

Novelist Steven King, himself a candidate for celestial banishment, describes Barker as the premiere horror writer of the known universe.

Ensnared briefly in a sunset strip hotel on a visit from London, Barker puffed on an enormous cigar and discussed horror in general and *Nightbreed* in particular.

"I believe horror movies should be more than simply blood and gore or dismembering teenagers," he said. "Like every other good film, I think horror movies showing the dark side of life should be a forum to say some quite interesting things."

"The only message in slasher movies admonish audiences not to get into the shower, not to visit crystal lake, to stay away from Elm Street or don't fall asleep."

Nightbreed proves we have a more ambiguous response to monster than we sometimes admit. It's difficult to have any compassion for a man in a hockey mask with a machete in his hand or a disfigured criminal with a chainsaw.

"In classic horror films there is always a little tug of sympathy, as there was for Frankenstein's monster, a little envy of Dracula and pity for the Wolfman."

"The thing about this picture is that while the monsters may be scary, the real villains are the human beings, who are even scarier—including a cop, a priest and the psychopathic psychiatrist."

"I think I've added a different dimension to horror by casting David Cronenberg in a leading role of *Nightbreed*. David has a special feeling for this sort of film."

Cronenberg was the director of *The Fly* and *Dead Ringers*, among other occult movies.

"To me David is the pre-eminent horror director in the world," Barker said.

Bronenberg, playing a lunatic psychiatrist, finds himself involved with Midian, a legendary city hidden beneath a cemetery in the wastes of Canada, a labyrinthine necropolis inhabited by the most imaginatively gross apparitions ever dreamed up by a demented mind.

The creatures make Michael Meyer, Freddy Krueger and Jason look like beauty contestants.

Why we blush

If you blush when he says I love you, it may be a sign of your conflicting emotions. Although experts aren't sure what causes blushing, Jean Helz, M.D., clinical assistant professor of psychiatry and human behaviour at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia suggests, "Blushing is an unconscious reflection of conflicting feelings in which you may be thinking something that you know is wrong and you don't want others to guess you're thinking of it." For example, when a woman is given a compliment, she may be inwardly pleased, but she has always been taught that it is selfish to attract attention.

These conflicting emotions cause the brain to send a signal that triggers the blood vessels in the face and neck to open and fill with blood, says Julius Jacobson, M.D., chief of vascular surgery at Mt Sinai Medical School in N.Y. Suffusion of blood just beneath the skin's surface causes that familiar warm and tingling sen-

sation that accompanies the rosy glow visible to others.

Who blushes? It is a world-wide phenomena, occurring in all cultures, and in men and women of all skin colours. Rudyard Kipling once cleverly observed, "The blush that lies at 17 is fixed at 49." In fact, blushing begins around ages two to five, when boys and girls become aware of feelings of embarrassment or shame. Blushing occurs most prominently from puberty through age 30. But as we age, we grow more attuned to our feelings and learn to control our emotions, so blushing tends to occur less often.

It's true that women generally blush more often than men. Dr Helz proposes this may be due to ingrained social cues from the past, in which a woman was expected to blush when an embarrassing situation occurred to prove her innocence or chastity. This in turn enhanced her femininity in the male eye.

Your health

Laughter—the best medicine

Hospitals are taking laughter seriously; instead of handing out pills, doctors and nurses put on baggy trousers and party hats and invite patients to join in the fun.

Doctors have come up with the zaniest way to cure people ... they bring on the clowns.

Patients are given happy new lives after being made to laugh again and again. Doctors have also discovered the serious scientific fact that laughter is often the best kind of medicine.

There are even hospital rooms crammed full of jokesbooks, games and video tapes. Patients go there to laugh their troubles away.

It's just like a party at one hospital where doctors, nurses, patients and even their relatives have a rollicking time after pulling on party hats, baggy trousers and grease paint, then they just let themselves go.

Another hospital, in New York treats arthritis and stroke patients with large doses of comedy videos and cartoon books.

But at the Choate Mental Health and Developmental Centre in Illinois, America, they even have a humour room for people suffering from depression.

Doctors say that when people laugh a lot it relieves tension and releases the hormones which help them to get better quicker. And there is one amazing side effect ... the doctors and nurses have discovered that the sessions are as good a tonic for them, too.

Activity supervisor, Lou Ann Boswell, who helped pioneer the happiness project said: "We have had such positive results. The patients love it. They have a wonderful time dressing up and, since it has been going, I have seen lots of very happy people."

"It especially helped our elderly patients. Some were very withdrawn and terribly depressed but, since we started this, they talk to people and laugh more."

"It may only seem like a small step but, to them, it is a giant one. It helps to build their self esteem and gives them more sense of self worth. As a result, they have a good response to every thing else too, to any kind of interaction."

So instead of swallowing pills, patients at Choate are given prescriptions for the humour room.

Lou Anne explains: "The humour room serves as a kind of safety valve. Family and friends can visit patients here and just have fun. It is fully equipped with comedy video tapes, jokebooks, games, cartoons, funny stories, that kind of thing."

"We even have special projects there, which include clown shows, story-telling, funny T-shirt days and magic shows, anything that causes laughter." After two hours of clowning around, juggling, and performing short skits one student nurse at Choate didn't want.

Stephanie Hase said: "I've had the best time of my life here. It's such great fun I don't want to leave."

Lou Anne Boswell even admits her life has brightened up since laughter became a daily event.

She says: "Since taking part in this kind of therapy not only the patients confidence but mine, too, has increased. It's made me stop and think. It has really changed my outlook on life."

"I feel as if I have the ability to do anything that I want to do now. It really has healed something very deep within myself. Helping people in this way has really made me happy. And just think all we are doing is having a good laugh!"

Patients who are unable to leave their wards don't miss out on the fun either.



Transformed look.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

DISEASE CAUSES STIFFENING OF JOINTS

Question: My son, who is 37, has been diagnosed as having a type of arthritis in which his spinal column may fuse and become one bone. We are desperate for information that can help him prevent this terrible disease from progressing and robbing him of his youth. Please help.

Answer: Without doubt you are referring to a rheumatic disorder known as ankylosing spondylitis (AS) or sometimes referred to as Marie-Strumpell Disease. It is a disease that is three times more common in men than in women, and strikes between the ages of 20 and 40 years of age.

The most common complaint of patients with this disease is stiffness, particularly in the morning, which is gradually relieved by activity. Although the stiffness may occur in any joint—knees, ankles, shoulders and hips—it is the back that is the eventual target, with back pain of varying intensity, occurring frequently at night.

The term "ankylosis" means stiffening, while "spondyl" refers to the vertebrae and "itis" denotes inflammation. The disease process is one of inflammation, with the tissues around the joints of the body, particularly the spine, becoming inflamed and swollen. This creates the pain. The patient attempts to reduce the discomfort by keeping the joint immobile, which of course leads to more stiffening.

As the joint attempts to heal, new bone is formed that may eventually join one vertebra to another, but it is the extremely rare case where the whole

back bone becomes a single fused bone.

Much can be done to help your son. To begin, the joint pain and stiffness, as well as muscle spasm, may be relieved using NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). In addition, a programme of daily exercise to maintain both correct posture and flexibility is vital. The good news is that even in patients who are not correctly diagnosed or treated, the condition may not disrupt their lifestyle or cause a deformity.

Continued care and attention to therapy frequently can reduce this condition to occasional episodes of backaches and spasm, without deformity or compromised posture.

Question: Can you list for me the causes of infertility in women? I know that there are many, and that they may frequently be cured, but what type of doctor should I consult for treatment?

Answer: You're correct; there are many situations that can disrupt the delicate mechanism that provided for reproduction. To begin, any disease or process that interferes with the production of eggs (ovulation) must be considered. If the tubes (fallopian) that lead to the uterus are blocked by infection, malformations or scars, the egg is unable to reach the uterus.

Endometriosis ranks high as a cause of infertility, as does any disease that changes the shape of the uterus. Fibromas, myomas, and congenital malformation may be the cause of such changes in uterine

configuration. If the production of the cervical mucus is abnormal, fertilization is hampered and impaired.

"The type of abnormality causing the problem" pretty well dictates the kind of physician who may be able to help you. If hormonal problems are the primary cause, a gynaecologic endocrinologist may be of help, while it takes surgical skills to repair a damaged fallopian tube, or remove a tumour from the uterus.

If you initiate to search for the cause of your problem with your regular family physician, the referral problem will easily be resolved as the cause of the infertility becomes clear.

Diabetes is a way of life for many people. With proper treatment, however, diabetes can lead long, productive lives. Learn how to detect diabetes, how to control it and how to deal with loved ones who may suffer from it, all in Dr Bruckheim's latest booklet, *Diabetes And You*. To order your copy, send \$2.75 to Diabetes, P.O. Box 4406, Orlando, Fla., 32802-4406. Make checks payable to News-papersbooks.

Dr. Allan Bruckheim welcomes questions from readers. Although he cannot respond to each one individually, he will answer those of general interest in his column. Write to Dr. Bruckheim in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 119, Orlando, Fla. 32802-0119.

Clothes give confidence

High-powered way to dress for success

IN the mirror I carefully examined every inch of my perfectly made up face. Then, lifting a slightly trembling hand, I touched my elegantly styled hair and stood back to admire the beautiful £800 suit I was wearing.

For a few short hours I had been transformed from a fresh-faced, slightly scatty young reporter, to that of a powerful, perfectly groomed executive—all thanks to clothes consultant and authoress Susie Faux.

Susie's shop Wardrobe, in London's West End, was the setting for my transformation. It is there that Susie advises high-powered business women, and those who wish to be high powered, how to dress for success.

Immaculately dressed in a pale grey suit, Susie ushered me into the shop. Running perfectly manicured nails through her shiny black bob she cast a beautifully made up eye over the outfit I had chosen with such care that morning, and declared it, "All right. Very ... well ... clean looking."

Soon I was seated and drinking a cup of almond tea while Susie decided what kind of clothes and make up were needed to give me that certain something she believes most women lack.

"It is not a question of not trying," she said, "but I do believe most women do not have a clue as to what really suits them."

"I am always honest with my customers, though I try to be tactful. At Wardrobe we never let a woman buy something that would not look good on them."



Clothes consultant and authoress Susie Faux advises high-powered businesswomen on how to dress to impress. Reporter Alex Molloy visited her shop in London's West End for her own stunning top-to-toe transformation ... and liked how she looked!

"I always dress a woman, according to her personality. I will chat to her for at least 15 minutes and find out what she does for a living before deciding

what would suit her."

Soon Susie had whisked from various rails and shelves a pale khaki skirt and padded jacket, a cream jumper, black sheer tights, a pair of flat black shoes, a green checked coat and brown gloves and deposited me in a changing room to put them on.

Next it was time for my hair and make-up. Susie bore down on me waving various combs and brushes. My hair was drawn back from my face and twisted in places with combs. It took just three minutes but the difference was remarkable.

She said: "Your hair is quite lovely for the evenings and weekends, but it falls over your face and says, 'I'm shy.' With it taken away from your face you look more confident and people will treat you differently."

"Susie has even managed to give a woman the courage to leave her unfaithful husband. She recalls: 'I had a phone call from a man who said his wife was feeling very depressed and would I kit her out in some new clothes to cheer her up.'"

"I talked to the lady when she arrived and discovered the reason she was so miserable was because her husband was having an affair."

"We dressed her up and she looked stunning, really beautiful. The next thing I knew her husband rang back the following day and said, 'What have you done? She looks terrible.' I discovered after a while that what he really meant was that she looked far too good, and that he no longer had the excuse of a

dowdy wife to carry on with his affairs."

"She eventually gained enough courage to leave him. Clothes really have that power. If you look confident you feel it."

And Susie is right. I stared at myself in the mirror astonished. Was that really me? Casually I asked Susie how much my complete outfit cost. "Oh," she said, "just over £1000."

Susie believes that you must be prepared to spend money if you want to look good. But she adds: "I do not mean that women should buy a whole new expensive outfit in one go. Not many can afford that. You gradually build up a working wardrobe that you can use in your private life as well."

"You need a 'capsule' wardrobe, one that includes a jacket and skirt, trousers and a blouse, a sweater and dress, plus a coat and a raincoat. And if you want to pay a large sum of money on one item of clothing it should be a jacket. Your whole wardrobe can centre around one."

In her new book, *Wardrobe*, Susie advises women on how to shop wisely, and what kind of figure suits which clothes. She gives tips on skin care, make-up and exercise, and which colours go together.

She says: "I hope the book offers women valuable advice. 'I just love to see a woman looking good, knowing that I helped her achieve her own personal style.'"

Wardrobe by Susie Faux with Philippa Davies is published by Piatkus Books at £12.95.



Hair-dresser arranging reporter's hair.

Happy birthday



Bonita D' Souza turned 7 on Feb 19



Nikita Jagtiani turned 5 on February 12



Talha Rahman turned 5 on February 16



Amna Zafar turned 4 on February 19



Tenya Alick turned 2 on February 17



Tony Koipallil turned 3 on February 17



Ravi Vinodan turned 10 on February 2



Butool Rizvi turned 7 on February 16



Khadeja Jamdar turned 1 on February 15



Jayanta Lal turned 14 on February 17



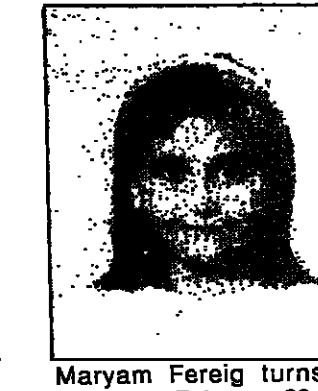
Sanaa Bagdadi turned 2 on February 19



Samir Garasia turns 10 today, February 20



Chirjeev Bedi turns 6 today, February 20



Maryam Fereig turns 8 today, February 20



Alton Pinto turns 8 on February 21



Fiona J. Fernandes turns 10 on February 21

Just for laughs!

My brother gave me a book for Christmas. He said, "This book will teach you how to fight." I said, "But it's got nothing in it." He said, "I know, it's a scrap book."

My brother went into the library and said he wanted to put a bet on a horse. The librarian said, "What do you take me for, a book-keeper?"

"I heard they cancelled the tug of war match between England and France." "Did they? Why was that?" "They couldn't find a long enough rope."

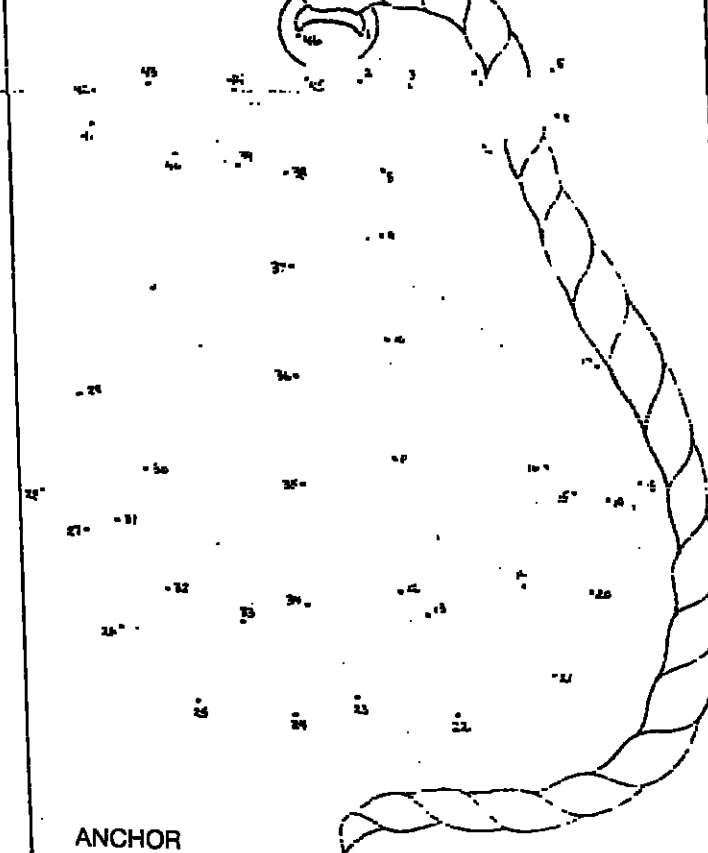
This man came up to my sister. He said, "Miss, can you tell me the quickest way to the station?" She said, "Yes, run like hell."



Happy birthday Melissa

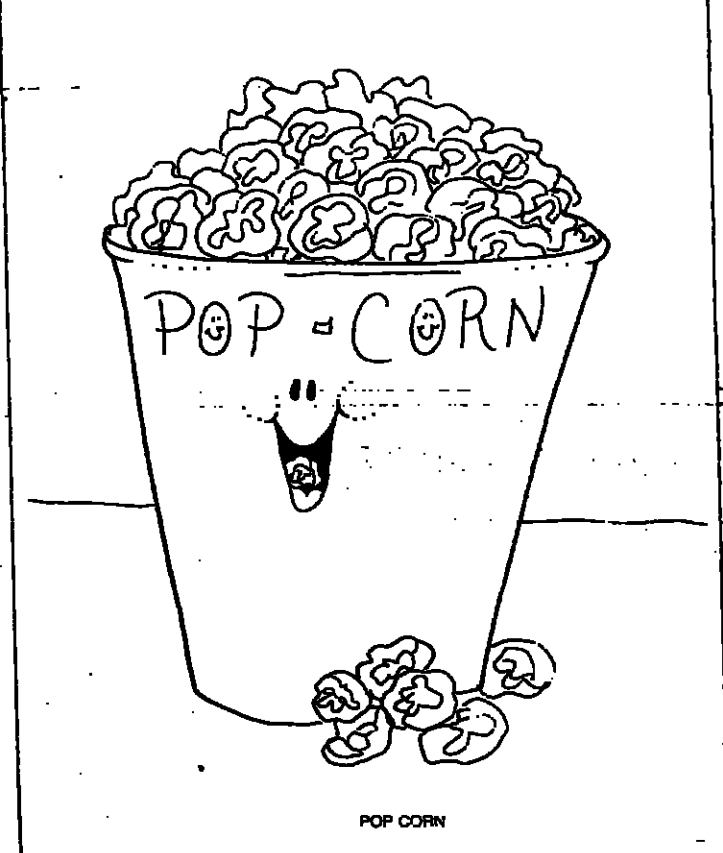
Melissa Rebello held a party to celebrate her birthday on February 9. Picture shows Melissa (centre) with friends.

DOT-TO-DOT



ANCHOR

Colour Time



POP CORN

Variety

Torn between the old and new...Egypt's Nubians eke out a living in desert

ABU SIMBEL, Egypt. (Reuters): Dislocated and disoriented, Egypt's Nubians have become a forgotten people.

Flooded out of their ancestral homes almost 30 years ago to make room for the Aswan Dam, they now eke out a living in desert villages far away.

Their houses are set in long concrete rows along sandy streets, the harsh landscape unbroken by greenery.

Many young men have left to work in Cairo and women in long black dresses and

scarves, their faces prematurely aged, sit outside with their children in the near-deserted streets.

They dream of their old villages next to the Nile where mud houses, palm trees and green cultivated terraces ran down to the river. Their new villages about 300 km (190 miles) to the north, have kept only names.

They dream of traditions handed down, some say since the beginning of time, when, like the Egyptians, the Nubians created one of the earliest civilizations.

In Pharaonic times, the Nubians had their own kingdom which stretched north into Egypt and south into Sudan.

Mohammed Bashir, a Nubian and director of the state information service in the town of Aswan, believes they are the oldest people in the world.

To him, the history of mankind started by the Nile. He says Stone Age remains found in Nubian villages and the simplicity of the Nubian language proves they are an ancient people.

Their descendants, whose complexions are a shade darker than those of other Egyptians, still speak their own Nubian languages. They were peasants farmers fit to be affected by the twentieth century until the early 1960s when the Aswan High Dam was built.

Inspired by former president Gamal Abdel-Nasser, the dam was built to supply electricity and prevent annual Nile floods. A huge reservoir, named Lake Nasser, was

created behind it. An international campaign was launched to rescue Nubia's Pharaonic remains, including the Temple of Abu Simbel and the Temple of Philae, which were moved above the flood waters.

But the villages built around the temples were lost, and some 50,000 people were moved north to new desert homes.

"Gamal Abdel-Nasser came to Abu Simbel and made a speech, and he asked the Nubians what they wanted. They told him

"we would like to see the Nile," recalled Abdel-Rahman Hassan Gabr, a wizened old man in white robes and a white turban.

"They told us we know how you live and you will go to a village which is like where you live, only better," he added.

The Nubians found their new homes were half-built, without roofs and far from the river.

Many people died from snake and scorpion bites. Some returned to their old villages to find only the tops of the palm

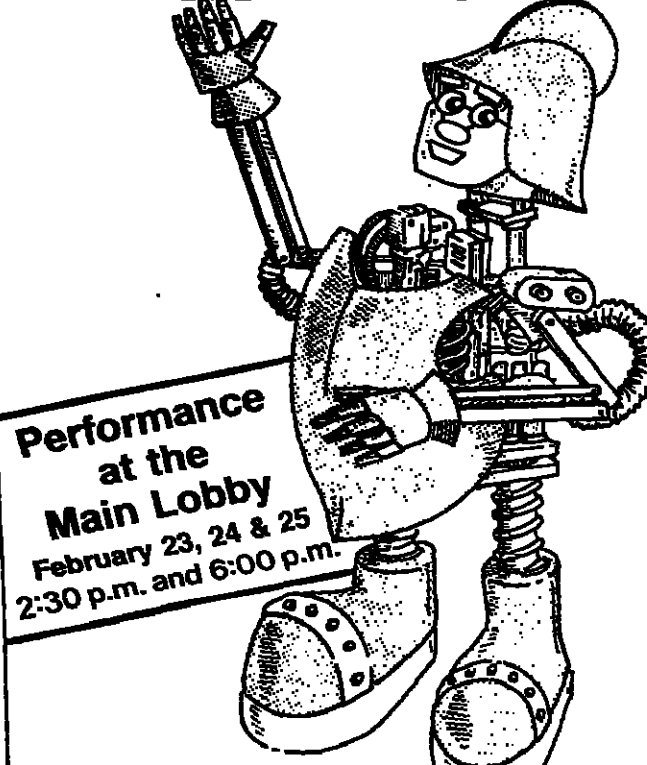
trees above the water.

"It was a shock. It was a big shock," Gabr said.

"I didn't believe a place like this could exist, a village with no greenery," an old woman said.

Thirty years on, the Nubians, who number 100,000 in Egypt, have painstakingly recreated a kind of life, painting their houses and setting up seats outside for their traditional street life.

ROBBIE IN THE LOBBY



Performance at the Main Lobby February 23, 24 & 25 2:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Robbie 2002 is an all metal, highly sophisticated, 1.2 metre tall remote control robot. Robbie is a star. He has appeared on TV over 200 times. As 'DUSTY BIN' in the TV Quiz programme 3.2.1, he had over 17 million viewers.

He has a bag full of tricks for his young fans one of them being tap dancing.

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Tweedy Englishwoman's recipe for lemon curd murder mystery

British mystery-writer P.D. James, who enjoys world-wide recognition, says a "good English mystery writer finds an interesting place to leave the corpse." She also talks about her work, and her latest thriller "Devices and Desires."

NEW YORK. (Reuters): P.D. James, the nice, tweedy Englishwoman who retired from the service to write crime stories, is enjoying international recognition aping that of Agatha Christie. She says it is no great accomplishment, less.

Above all, she says, a good English mystery writer finds an interesting place, like a drawing room or a church vestry, to leave the corpse — unlike American mysteries, where bodies are strewn all over the place.

Also a visit or two to a nuclear power station is helpful, as is having a detective with a rich relative who leaves him a house in an isolated part of the country where a mass murderer is killing young girls.

A good recipe for lemon curd, the lemon custard that the English love, can also help.

These are pretty much the ingredients for James' latest bestseller, *Devices and Desires*, a 400-page thriller that moves so quickly that one hardly notices the importance of the lemon curd until the very end.

James says the hard part was getting a good recipe for lemon curd. She got hers from Elizabeth David, the most famous food writer in Britain.

"The difficulty with research is that you have to get it right. Otherwise your readers get right on to you and you never hear the end of it. I spend about as much time researching my mysteries as I do writing them," James said in an interview during a recent visit to New York.

"In *The Table of Death* I made one of my characters set off for a holiday in Nottingham and I had her go via King's Cross (a London railway station) instead of St Pancras Station. I got it wrong."

"One letterwriter told me Miss Walton was right to avoid St Pancras and another said she would have to change twice if she used King's Cross," the author remembered.

In one of my early books, I had a suspect going in reverse on a motorbike. But, of course, a two-stroke cycle can't go in reverse. I got letters with diagrams but finally someone said: if it was a Harley Davidson, it could go in reverse. I was very much relieved."

As in many of her previous mysteries, the hero of *Devices and Desires* is Scotland Yard Commander Adam Dalgleish, who is probably the only poet-

detective in the mystery field.

James says it is important that Dalgleish works for Scotland Yard because private detectives — the mainstay of American mystery fiction — no longer count for much in Britain.

She describes him "As a very private person with a cluster of ice in his heart." But, she adds, "He is much more cheerful in this book than he was in the last one."

In *Devices and Desires* Dalgleish is left a house in an isolated part of the English east coast, an area dominated by a huge nuclear power station. This prompted James to dress up in protective clothing and visit atomic power plants to research her book.

There is a serial killer loose in the area, but for that part of her story James merely read a few standard textbooks on serial murders as research.

"They are unlikely to have a good, stable background with loving families," she said of people who murder repeatedly. "But otherwise no one can say why they do what they do."

The serial killer is just a red herring, however. The main crime in the novel is not committed until mid-day through the book by a copy-cat killer.

While it is not hard to figure who is going to get the chop, James has so many potential killers in her story that guessing who did it is hard.

James says she has several guiding principles in writing mysteries. One is that the plot is always worked out in advance, especially who does what to whom.

Another is that the setting is most important. James said that in her last book she made a special effort to have a horribly mutilated body found in the vestry of a church by a spinster.

"It was infinitely more horrible than if I had the body found in the basement of a Soho Sex Club," she said.

"The English mystery writers have always believed that the single body on the drawing room floor was more horrific than a dozen bullet-riddled bodies down on the mean streets."

In fact, as the poet W.H. Auden said, this contrast between setting and murder is the key — the contrast between the great, good place and the horror of the deed."

London's clubs revived

LONDON. (Reuters): London's clubs, long regarded as musty relics of the English class system, have come a long way since the Duke of Wellington called them the best way to keep army officers out of brothels.

After years of decline, the clubs enjoyed a comeback throughout the 1980s due to growing prosperity and a taste among the meritocracy for traditional pursuits.

"The type of person who is now a member has certainly changed in all clubs because the world has changed," said Robert Linsley, secretary of the Carlton Club, which is frequented by senior members of the ruling Conservative Party.

"About a third of our members are Members of Parliament and peers still active in the House of Lords and another third consist of professionals in the fields of law, accountancy, media and captains of industry," Linsley said.

Britain's new moneyed classes, those said to have profited most from nearly 11 years of Prime Minister

Margaret Thatcher's free-market, tax-cutting policies, sit side by side with members of Britain's long-established families — the old Britain and the new.

The old and the new, symbolically represented respectively by former Sunday Telegraph editor Peregrine Worsthorne and Sunday Times editor Andrew Neil, clashed in a courtroom last month with London's Clubs emerging as a bone of contention.

The jury in the libel trial awarded damages against Worsthorne, who had written an article implying Neil was unfit to edit a quality newspaper because he had known that a former House of Commons researcher called Pamela Bordes was a prostitute during their four-month affair in 1988.

"This is a victory for New Britain against Old Britain," Neil said after the verdict.

The clubs had their heyday in the last years of Queen Victoria's reign a

century ago when there were 200 in the capital. Now there are about 40, the most notable clustered in or around Pall Mall and St James's Street in an area known as clubland.

The oldest, White's, began as a coffee house in 1693 and is still one of London's most exclusive clubs.

Boodle's and Brook's were founded a few years later and became fashionable spots for gambling and political discussion.

The Duke of Wellington, who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo, helped found the Carlton in 1832.

Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of Burke's Peerage, the leading authority on royal lineage, said clubs were gaining in popularity because of a return to traditional values not only in London but in Paris, Rome, New York and other cities.

"There is a revival of traditional things and return to elegance. The clubs that tried to keep their favour and always restricted membership are now the most successful," he said.

That's a record!

He may not have a name yet but this Toco Toucan chick is already a star. And, as the first hand-reared Toucan he certainly fits the bill.



HE won't win any prizes for beauty, but this tiny toucan chick is sure to raise a few eyebrows.

The ugly "duckling" may not be the world's best looking bird, but his bundles of bones is certainly one of the rarest.

The feathered friend has flown into the record books as the first Toco Toucan to be successfully bred in Britain.

He could also be the first incubator-hatched and hand-reared toucan in the world.

Experts at Linton Zoo, in Cambridge, saved its life when the egg in which it was developing cracked.

Dedicated staff at the zoo sealed the break with artificial skin, normally used for covering cuts and kept their fingers crossed that the chick would survive.

They breathed a sigh of relief when the squawking youngster hatched, and kept a constant vigil at the incubator to check its progress.

A special diet of yoghurt, fruit, baby food, minced beef and egg yolk was fed to the chick through a syringe.

كلنا من العرب

February Scramble

Directions: Unscramble the February words and write them correctly on the lines. Use the word list to help you solve the puzzle.

- 1) seetdnrip _____
- 2) sdihyaio _____
- 3) gwttonsiha _____
- 4) eeggor _____
- 5) nnllico _____
- 6) ggoorhdun _____
- 7) etsnvaline _____
- 8) erfbruy _____

Word List:

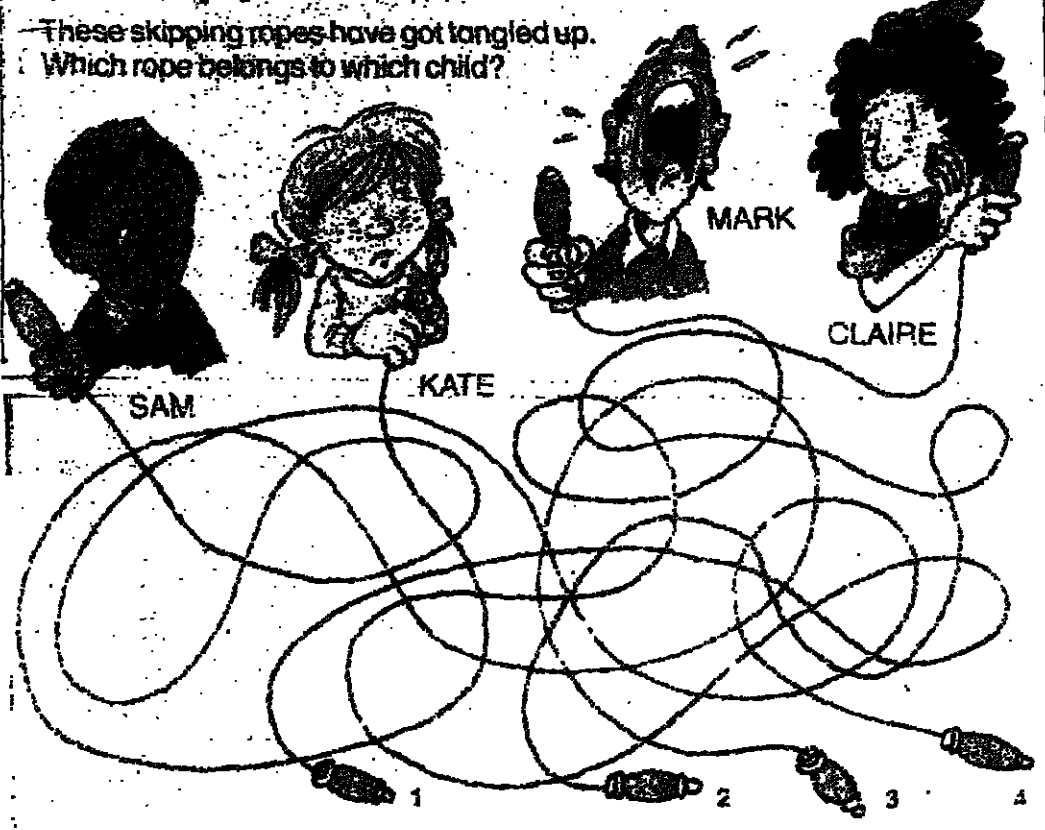
valentines
Washington
Lincoln
February

George
president
groundhog
holidays



Knotty problem

These skipping ropes have got tangled up. Which rope belongs to which child?

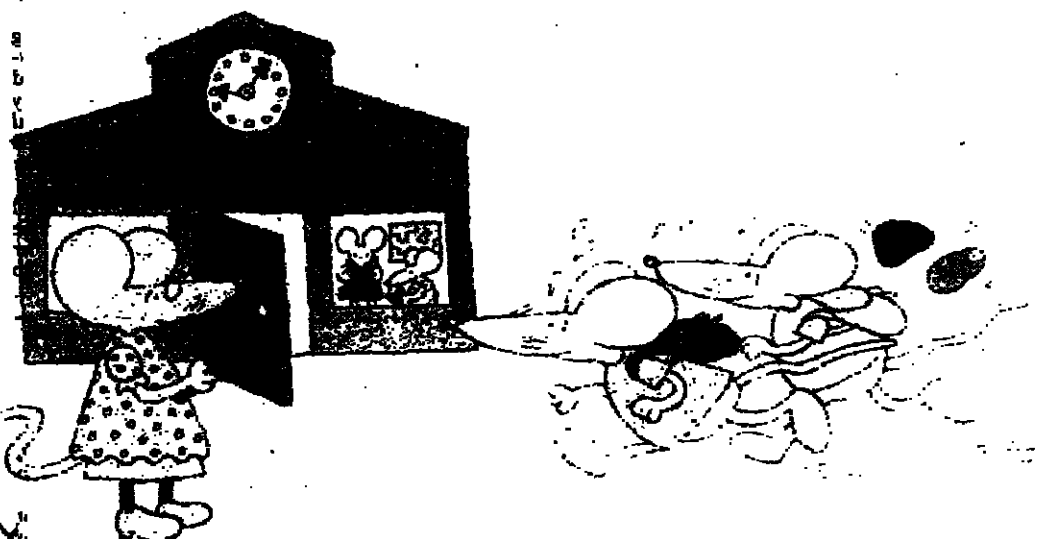


Join the science gang

Moving

Mix and Max usually walk to school...

...but sometimes they run!
Can you see why?



How quickly can you run? Tick yes or no.
Are you faster than...

- a tortoise? yes ☐ no ☐
- a horse? yes ☐ no ☐
- a deer? yes ☐ no ☐
- a snail? yes ☐ no ☐

Roya the Olympic gymnast

ROYA gracefully ran on to the mat, and took a bow to the judges.

Millions of people would be watching what she was about to do, on the TV and in the arena.

Roya held up her arms, took a deep breath and did a run and somersaulted three times in a row. The crowd cheered her above the music that was being played, she twisted her body, with such grace, that the crowd held their breath, when Roya bent her body double, and balanced on her head, her arm stretched out each side for balance. Roya swayed to the music, jumping high into the air, she did a back flip, and landed perfectly on her two feet, without losing her balance.

The crowd cheered, her parents

were in the audience, so was her big sister Dina.

After Roya had done her set piece, she bowed to the cheering crowd, and went to sit down with her coach, and cool down. It was hot and thirsty work, so Roya took a glass of water and watched her friend perform. Roya hoped she would win the competition, but she understood that even if she came second or third, at least she tried hard.

For many weeks she trained after school for this competition, she had dreamt of being an Olympic gymnast.

After all the girls had finished, the judge went to the microphone and announced the winners, in reverse order.

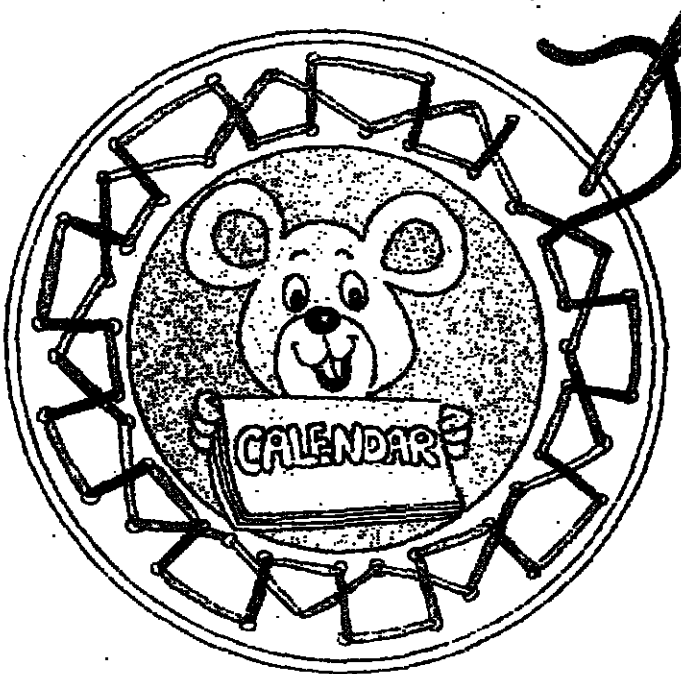
"In third place Joanne Peta, second place Melanie Goddard, and in first place Roya Rida, who wins the KD 100 prize. Roya could not believe her ears, she went up to the judge, shook his hand and took the cheque, and said "Thank you". It was hard for Roya to hold back the tears of happiness that wanted to flow, but she held them in check for as long as she could. After she went to her dressing room to get changed and go home, her parents came in and told her how proud of her they were.

That night Roya fell asleep, dreaming of being an Olympic champion. Well you never know, she did win one competition, and you have to start somewhere, don't you?...



By Julie Hodgson

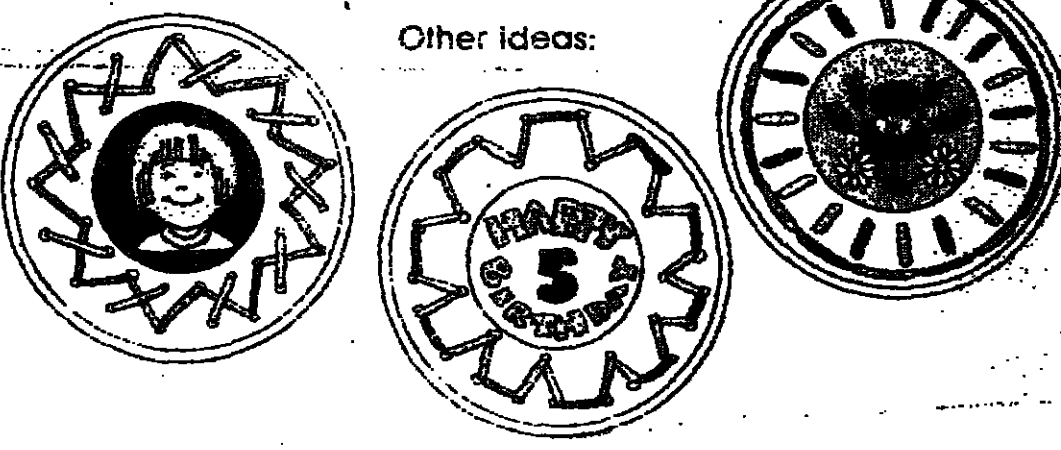
Make a picture present



Make holes round the edge of a paper plate or circle of thick card.

Use a bodkin and different coloured thick wool and thread in and out of the holes to make a pattern.

Either draw and colour a picture in the middle or cut out and stick one onto the plate. For a Christmas present, stick on a small calendar.



Other ideas:

Wordsearch

SCHOOL SPIRIT

This puzzle deals with the fun remembrances of our school days — proms, parties and sports. Dust off your old yearbook and reminisce along with us.

ALMA MATER	COLORS	LOCKER	PROJECT
BAG	COUNSELOR	LUNCH	PROM
BAND	DANCE	MASCOT	PROPERTY
BELL	DAY	MOTTO	ROOM
Student BODY	DIPLOMA	NAME	SECRETARY
BOOK	GYMNASIUM	NEWSPAPER	TEAM
BUS	HALL	NURSE	VALEDICTORIAN
CHEERS	HOUSE	PEP RALLY	WORK
CHORUS	JANITOR	POLICY	YEAR
CLUB	LETTERS	PRINCIPAL	YEARBOOK

K B N A I R O T C I D E L A V
R E T A M A M L A I B A N D J
O L Y J Y T R E P O R P Y T T
W L R E K C O L E T T E R S C
E M A N K R O L E S N U O C E
T Y T G Y M N A S I U M O M J
L L E G A B M H H K O G M U O
A L R R B N E S U O H T B I R
P A C S U R O H C O S I T R P
I R E R L B Y D O B D K O O B
C P S A C C O L O R S M L T M
N E W S P A P E R A L I M I O
I P U S R E E H C E C N A D R
R B R O T I N A J Y E A R U P
P H C N U L S R N T O C S A M

May Day fun

Look at the picture. How many shoes can you see?
How many hedgehogs? How many trees? How many crowns?



Dear Junior Readers,

Smoking is a stupid habit if ever there was one, yet we hear of more and more young people taking it up. Ask people why they smoke and they are usually stuck for a convincing answer — about all they can come up with is that smoking helps them to feel relaxed. Most, however, choose to forget that it is expensive, dirty and dangerous to themselves and others. There are some people who realise the foolishness of what they are doing, but the big trouble is that once they start, it is extremely difficult for most people to give up and try as they might, they cannot go for very long without cigarettes.

The best way to avoid the problems of smoking is to avoid smoking itself. Do not be encouraged to smoke by friends and do not get the idea into your head that smoking is 'big' and that you have to do it to be 'in with the in crowd.' Neither should you think that you are not doing wrong to follow the example of your parents if they happen to smoke.

For the sake of your health and your pocket, don't get hooked.

Mandi

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____

Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

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Junior Times
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Kuwait
To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

WANTED

A young female secretary
For a full time job in Salmiya, transferable residence, typing and tele operations; come in person to submit your application with a photo to:
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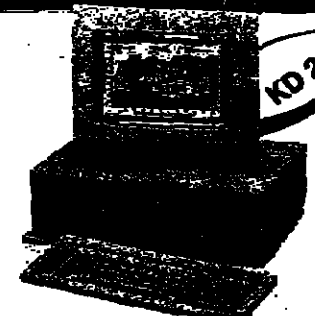
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McEnroe gets chance for revenge

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 19, (AP) — The last time John McEnroe played in the US Pro Indoor, Tim Mayotte spoiled his bid to become the tournament's first five-time champion.

McEnroe, the world's fourth-ranked player, will try again against No. 12 Mayotte and four other top 10 players in this year's \$1 million tournament, which was to begin this evening.

McEnroe is seeded No. 1 and Mayotte No. 6 in a 48-player field that also includes No. 3 Brad Gilbert, No. 7 Andre Agassi and No. 10 Jay Berger.

Other top players include Soviet Andrei Chesnokov, Andres Gomez of Ecuador and Americans Jim Courier, Kevin Curren and Jim Grabb.

Rounding out the top 16 seeds are Christo van Rensburg of South Africa; Jaime Yzaga of Peru; Americans David Wheaton, Pete Sampras and Scott Davis; Wally Masur of Australia and Mikael Pernfors of Sweden.

"I think we've got a really good field," said tournament referee Vic Seixas, the 1953 Wimbledon champion. "You've got good matches from the first round on."

While McEnroe serves and volleys aggressively, Gilbert has a strong counterpunch and Agassi "just blasts the daylight out of the ball from the baseline," Seixas said.

But Mayotte beat McEnroe in 1987, won again in 1988 and lost in the final last year to Boris Becker.

Mayotte upset McEnroe in the Milan, Italy, indoor tournament two weeks ago before losing to Ivan Lendl, the world's top-ranked player.

World No. 1 collects \$167,500

Lendl routs Mayotte for crown



Lendl seemed to be in hurry

TORONTO, Feb. 19, (Reuters) — Top-seed Ivan Lendl played like a man who had some place else to be as he breezed past Tim Mayotte 6-3, 6-0 in the final of the \$1.2 million Skydome World Tennis Tournament yesterday.

Lendl, in fact, found himself in a bit of a hurry after collecting his \$167,500 prize.

Immediately after his triumph, Lendl was shuffling off to Buffalo where the Hartford Whalers ice hockey team were playing the Sabres yesterday evening. Lendl, a resident of Connecticut, sits on the board of directors of the Whalers.

Lendl wasted little time in tak-

ing care of business as usual against the sixth-seeded Mayotte, who has played Lendl 17 times over the last 10 years without a victory.

Although some of their matches have been tough, this one was not, as Lendl used just 64 minutes to win the title.

"I wish it had been a little bit longer final," said Mayotte, who collected \$88,200 as runner-up.

"Maybe I'll make a long speech to make up for it."

Lendl continued to demonstrate his near invincibility against most of the opposition on the Tour.

Asked whether Boris Becker

and Stefan Edberg were his only solid challengers on the scene, Lendl replied: "You can't really say that, but over a number of matches, yes."

"You saw on Friday (when Kevin Curren had seven match points against Lendl in the quarter final) that if you're not on top of your game, that a player can hurt you. But over 10 matches, Stefan and Boris are the ones that can hurt you."

Lendl actually started slowly and was knotted with Mayotte at 3-3 in the first set.

After 3-1, I was returning his serve better and was on top of the ball," Lendl said. "His first few

service games I wasn't doing anything with the ball."

Once Lendl got up to speed, however, Mayotte was doomed to be left behind.

Mayotte, who also lost to Lendl in the last week's final in Milan, said he is happy with his recent form but frustrated by his inability to solve the Lendl puzzle.

"You have to dream, but you have to be realistic," Mayotte said. "I'm never going to be number one, but I beat three players in the top 10 (John McEnroe in Milan, Aaron Krickstein and Brad Gilbert here) in the last two weeks. That's very satisfying."



Navratilova scores 10th title victory at Chicago

CHICAGO, Feb. 19, (Reuters) — Martina Navratilova, showing that a recent break from the circuit had not dulled her serve-and-volley brilliance, beat Manuela Maleeva 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday in the final of the \$500,000 Chicago Women's Tournament.

The win, accomplished in just 54 minutes, gave her a 10th Chicago title.

Maleeva, who has lost seven matches in a row to Navratilova, played valiantly but was unable to get rolling as Navratilova put constant pressure on her, rushing the net and pinning her to the backcourt for much of the match.

Navratilova broke service in the third game of the first set to go up 2-1, served a love game at 4-2 and won the set in the ninth game with her second service break.

In the final set, Navratilova broke to go up 2-0 and broke again in the eighth game to complete her victory.

"Martina is a good athlete," said the fifth-seeded Bulgarian. "She is putting pressure on you coming into the net. It is difficult to pass her. She never really let me in the game."

Navratilova was most pleased with her service game.

"I only lost one game on my service all week," Navratilova said. "I wasn't down one service break point today against Manuela, who is one of the best returners in women's tennis."

This was Navratilova's first tournament after a two-month lay-off. Her fears that she might be rusty were soon allayed as she stormed through her four matches, losing only 12 of 58 games.

"I played a lot during my lay-off period and the exhibitions with Chris (Ever) really helped the weekend before. And I still know what to do at 30-40," she said.

KU, UAS notch contrasting wins

IN this week's KISL action, Kuwait University downed the never-say-die FHWA Falcons, 16-6, and, in the longest game of the year, the UAS teachers saw a big lead over the determined all-Japan Bazooskas disappear but recovered to win in ten innings, 16-13.

The Kays-Eagles game was postponed.

In Friday's early game, KU built up a 13-0 lead after 4-1/2 innings for pitcher Mike Anderson. A determined Falcons team hit well in the late stages to stay in the game. In the top of the first, KU's Jassim Yahia singled, Dave Checkie doubled, Ed Smith singled one run home, and Karl Anderson powered a three-run homer over the leftfield fence. Doug Clark also singled.

KU scored two in the third on Smith's leadoff single, a walk and three errors. KU's four in the fourth came on Vic Mason's leadoff single, Yahia's walk, an error to Checkie, two-run doubles by Smith and Karl Anderson, and Clark's RBI single. Two more came in the fifth on singles by Mason, Checkie, Smith and Karl Anderson, and three scored in the seventh on singles for Clarence Jabs and Yahia, Smith's second double, singles by

Karl Anderson and Clark and a walk to Charlie Campbell.

The Falcons broke through with five runs in the fifth. Bassam Bibi started the rally with a leadoff single and Bob Mitchell reached on an error, followed by Jim Reilly's two-run double to the left-centerfield fence, an error to John Turley, and two-out RBI singles from Nigel Nightingale and KISL president Lubin Quinones.

The Falcons had another golden opportunity in the sixth, as coach and pitcher Monte Symons, KISL vice-president Jerry Cloud and Dave Wetzel led off with singles and Bibi walked to force in a run. But the next three batters flied out to steady right-centerfielder Ed Smith, who prevented any advance by the runners.

In the second game, the teachers jumped out to an 11-1 lead by the top of the fifth, before All-Japan, playing with only nine men, made a dramatic comeback to almost win. UAS scored two in the first as Lorne Bradt led off with a homer to right, Ken Parker and Dave Rojeck singled and All Perry sacrificed. In the third, Parker walked, Jerry Cook singled and Rojeck homered. In

the fourth, Dennis Dwyer singled, John Healam was safe on an error and Bradt again homered to right.

In the fifth, Rojeck again homered to right, Perry singled, Dave Lamb homered to right-center, Dwyer was safe on an error, and pitcher John Dennis, Healam and Bradt followed with two-out singles. In the sixth David Woods singled to bring in the teachers' twelfth run.

The Bazooskas scored one in the first on coach Aoki's triple and an error. They began their comeback in the fifth with three runs as, with one out, Aoki, Kitakami, Saitoh, and pitcher Nakano singled and with two out Suzuki hit a two-run single.

All-Japan roared back with eight in the sixth. Lead-off singles by Yamada, Oka, Aoki, Kitakami, and Saitoh scored three, followed by one-out singles from Miyazaki and Suzuki, Kato's triple, Yamada's single, and Aoki's second single (and fifth hit of the game).

Both teams, feeling the pressure, then went scoreless in the seventh, eighth and ninth innings, and both scored in the tenth. The teachers' four-run

uprising in the tenth came on leadoff errors to Parker and Cook, Rojeck's single (and fourth hit) singles from Perry and Woods, Lamb's walk and Dwyer's sacrifice.

All Japan loaded the bases in the bottom of the tenth with no outs. Suzuki was safe on an error, Kato singled and Yamada was safe on an error. Oka then lined to third, Aoki popped to short, and Kitakami singled one run home. The ever-dangerous cleanup hitter Saitoh, representing the winning run, then grounded out to shortstop Rojeck, who made many key plays in the late innings.

No regularly scheduled games will be played on February 23, but third-place KU's two make-up games will be played that day, at 10 against tough All-Japan and at noon against the Eagles, who share the league lead with Kay.

Standings

	W	L	Pct
Eagles	4	1	.800
Kay	4	1	.800
KU	3	1	.750
UAS	4	2	.667
All-Japan	1	5	.167
Falcons	0	6	.000

EEI and KPBC seeded

KPBL tourney starts Feb 23

THE Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) starts its 1st Conference/Tournament Proper for the year 1990 this coming Friday, February 23, at 9:00 am in the Kaifan High School Gym. This was agreed upon in a meeting, on Sunday at the Mabuhay Restaurant, Kuwait, attended by the KPBL Secretariat and members to the Board of Governors.

The tournament's rules and regulations were evaluated and as a result the elimination round will be a 2-Group/5 team classification, with the top 2 teams in each group advancing to the semis. Teams 3 and 4 in each group shall advance to the consolation round, while the 5th and 6th places will figure out in a best of three series to determine 9th and 10th places respectively. All throughout the competitions, the existing Fiba official basketball rules will be used.

EEI-Burgan and KPBC, both title contenders based on their power-house line-ups and performance in the recently held one-day championship were seeded separately.

EEI-Burgan leads the pack in Group-1, together with Trico International, KRP-Kuwait Regency Palace, Al Ghanim Freight & Travel, and Nissan Al Bahrain.

In Group-2, KPBC is joined by KHC-Bayan, Kay & Associates, Overland Transport, & KDD-Kuwait

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Schedule for Friday, February 23

9:00 am - 10:30 am Nissan Al Bahrain vs KDD (Ex-Game)
10:30 am - 12:30 pm Trico International vs KRP (1)
12:00 noon - 1:30 pm Kay & Associates vs KHC-Bayan (2)
1:30 - 3:00 pm EEI-Burgan vs Al Ghanim Freight & Travel (1)
3:00 - 4:30 pm KPBC vs Overland Transport Co. (2)

Schedule for Sunday, February 25

9:00 - 10:30 am Al Ghanim vs Overland Transport (Ex-Game)
10:30 am - 12:00 noon EEI-Burgan vs KRP (1)
12:00 noon - 1:30 pm KPBC vs Kay & Associates (2)
1:30 - 3:00 pm Trico International vs Nissan Al Bahrain (1)
3:00 - 4:00 pm KHC-Bayan vs KDD (2)

All teams are requested to be prompt on the above schedules.

All officials and referees will have a briefing this coming Wednesday the February 21, at the Mabuhay Restaurant at 8:00 pm.

Montana honoured

JOE MONTANA, who had the best season of any quarterback in NFL history in leading the San Francisco 49ers to their fourth Super Bowl victory, was named the Associated Press' male Athlete of the Year for 1989.

Montana began the year by capping a 92-yard drive with a 10-yard touchdown pass to John Taylor with 34 seconds left to beat Cincinnati for the 49ers' third Super Bowl. Then, during the 1989 regular season, he threw 26 touchdown passes and had only eight interceptions in leading San Francisco to a 14-2 record.

And although it didn't count in the balloting because it occurred in 1990, he threw five TD passes in the 55-10 Super Bowl win over Deaver that made the 49ers the first team in a decade to repeat as NFL champions and the second ever to win four Super Bowls.

Montana won the honours in a three-way race with Bo Jackson, who plays both football and basketball, and cyclist Greg Lemond. He is only the third NFL player to win the award in the 49 years it has been given.

Graf voted female Athlete of the Year

PERFECTION barely eluded Steffi Graf in 1989, but her mastery rule over women's tennis made her the overwhelming choice yesterday as the Associated Press female Athlete of the Year.

Graf, maturing from a skinny teen-ager into a stronger, more confident 20-year-old, captured the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the US Open for the second straight year.

The West German won 11 other tournaments and 83 of her 85 singles matches overall, losing only in three-set finals in the French open against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and at Amelia Island against Gabriela Sabatini.

Graf swept the four Grand Slam events — the Australian, French, Wimbledon and US Open — in 1988 and added an Olympic gold medal, but lost out in the female Athlete of the Year voting to sprinter Florence Griffith Joyner.

In gaining the honour for 1989, Graf easily outpolled the runner-up, golfer Betsy King and joined a distinguished list of tennis players who have dominated the top female athlete balloting over the past two decades.

Martina Navratilova won the award in 1986 and 1983; Tracy Austin in 1981 and 1979; Chris Evert in 1981, 1977, 1975 and 1974; Billie Jean King in 1973 and 1967; Evonne Goollagong in 1971; Althea Gibson in 1957 and 1958; Maria Bueno in 1959; Maureen Connolly in 1953, 1952 and 1951; Alice Marble in 1939 and 1940; Helen Wills Moody in 1935; and Helen Jacobs in 1933.



Graf joins the distinguished list

Graf was named first on 120 of the 148 ballots returned to the Associated Press by sports writers and editors across the country. She finished with a total of 671 points. Five points were given for first place, three points for second and one point for third.

Far behind in second was King, who had six first-place votes and 232 points. Jockey

Julie Krone was third with eight first-place votes and 209 points. Runner Sandra Farmer-Patrick was fourth with five first-place votes and 64 points.

As a sentimental choice, Evert finished fifth with two first-place votes, five for second and eight for third for a total of 33 points. Evert, 35, winner of 18 Grand Slam singles titles, retired from major competition after losing in

the quarterfinals of the US Open. She didn't win a tournament all year.

The only other woman with a first-place vote was swimmer Janet Evans, who finished seventh with 11 points.

Graf is the first non-American to win the award since gymnast Nadia Comaneci in 1976. Navratilova, born in Czechoslovakia, became a US citizen in 1981.

"I'm very flattered," Graf said from her home in West Germany. "It's nice to be chosen, especially since I'm not an American. It's nice that American think so high of me."

I think I had a better year in '88," she said. "The competition was a lot (tougher) last year. I had better opponents. Gaby (Gabriela Sabatini) and Martina were playing better and they were out to get me last year more than the year before."

Graf, who recently broke a thumb skiing after winning her third straight Australian Open, is among the best all-around women athletes and appears to be just approaching her potential in tennis.

Joseph Keul, a West German sports medicine expert, has predicted that Graf won't reach her peak until she is 26. He says two of the factors that make her a better athlete are a 38 percent greater lung capacity and a 40 percent larger heart than the average woman.

"If she wanted to give up tennis and train for the 800 metres, she would be a top middle-distance runner in time for the 1992

Olympics in Barcelona," Keul says.

That may not be as fanciful as it might seem.

Graf's coach, Pavel Slozil, says the long-legged, 5-foot-9 (1.75-metre) blonde has a secret desire to be an Olympic runner.

"The first thing on Steffi's mind when she passed Martina Navratilova and moved to No. 1 on the computer was to finish tennis and try run in the 800 metres at the Seoul Olympics," Slozil said.

The morning after a 20-hour flight to Seoul, Graf sneaked away without telling Slozil and ran with some West German 400-metre competitors on the practice track. Slozil was angry at the time, but he can't help admiring her desire to run.

"Once you are very fast, then you can play tennis the way she's playing," Slozil said. "Being on time to hit the ball is the most important thing. If you are late, you cannot make such a good shot as she does. This is a big advantage for her."

"Steffi is a very good athlete on the court. She can play four hours a day, it's no problem for her. If she's not running enough in practice she tells me, 'can you give me more, right and left?' You would think she has a turbo engine."

"If she's not a tennis player next time she's born, she's for sure a runner. I think she has the talent to be a better athlete than a tennis player, which is not an easy thing to say after she has won the Grand Slam." (AP)

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Who will win the Arab Gulf Cup?

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CONTEST QUESTIONS:

1. When was the first Gulf Cup Tournament held?
Country: _____ Year: _____
2. Name the player who scored the most goals in a single tournament?
3. Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990?

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Zimbabwe Country XI defeats England A

HARARE, Feb 19, (Reuters): England's A side failed to recover from losing top scorer James Whitaker and captain Mark Nicholas in consecutive overs and suffered an embarrassing nine-run defeat by a Zimbabwe Country District XI yesterday.

Set to make 217 in 50 overs in the opening match of the Zimbabwe leg of their tour, England had reached 113 for two when they lost Whitaker, who had increased the tempo of the innings by hitting three fours and a six off consecutive deliveries, for 59.

Nicholas went in the next over without addition to the score.

A partnership of 69 in 10 overs between Richard Blakey, who made 46, and Richard Illingworth kept the touring team in with a chance.

IOC chief

MANAMA, Feb 19, (Kuna): Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa and Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa today received the President of the International Olympic Committee Juan Antonio Samaranch and Chairman of the Asian Olympic Council and the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, currently on a visit here, Gulf News Agency reported.

Atlantic Open

OPORTO, Portugal, Feb 19, (Reuters): The PGA European Tour's first six-man playoff left Britain's Stephen McAlister the surprise winner of the Atlantic Open in gale-force winds yesterday.

Forsman wins

LAJOLLA, Calif., Feb 19, (Reuters): Dan Forsman played tough down the stretch to win the \$900,000 San Diego Open golf tournament yesterday by two strokes over Tommy Armour III.

Inverary Classic

LAVERHILL, Fla., Feb 19, (Reuters): Australian Jane Crafter held a 40-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to win the \$400,000 Inverary Classic women's golf tournament yesterday for the first LPGA title of her career.

Aetna Challenge

NAPLES, Florida, Feb 19, (AP): Trevor led off a late challenge by Bruce Crampton yesterday to win the Aetna Challenge by one shot, his second Senior Tour victory.

W. German coach

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Feb 19, (AP): Sepp Piontek, a West German coach who has been leading Danish national squad for 11 years, arrived here yesterday to sign a contract to take over the Turkish national team.

Catalonian Rally

LORET DE MAR, Spain, Feb 19, (AP): Italian driver Dario Cerrato drove his Lancia to victory in the 26th Catalonian Rally Saturday, overtaking Yves Loubet of France in the third round.

Tricortex Cup

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Feb 19, (AP): US track stars Greg Foster and Roger Kingdom captured top places yesterday in the 60-metre hurdles event of the Tricortex Cup meet.

Record missed

DESENZANO SUL GARDA, Italy, Feb 19, (AP): Giorgio Lamberti set an Italian record in the men's 400 metre freestyle before his hometown fans and narrowly missed a world mark in the final day of World Cup swimming competition here yesterday.

Serious error

DEAUVILLE, France, Feb 19, (UPI): The president of the French Boxing Association yesterday lashed out at what he termed "a serious error" by the referee in Saturday's WBO light-middleweight championship bout that ended with the title vacant.

Carbajal wins

PHOENIX, Arizona, Feb 19, (UPI): Michael Carbajal, a silver medalist in the 1988 Olympics, won a unanimous 12-round decision yesterday over Tony "Razor" Delucia to capture the North American Boxing Federation junior flyweight title.

NHL games

NEW YORK, Feb 19, (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday:

Philadelphia 3 New York 2
Chicago 6 Pittsburgh 4
Winnipeg 5 Calgary 1
Hartford 6 Buffalo 4
Edmonton 3 Minnesota 2
Boston 7 Vancouver 2

Koss triumphs

INNSBRUCK, Austria, Feb 19, (AP): Norway's Johann Olav Koss, resisting a strong challenge from his Dutch rivals, yesterday won the four-event World Speedskating Championship with 164.099 points.

Exiled trio

AMSTERDAM, Feb 19, (Reuters): The Netherlands have named exiled trio Ronald Koeman, Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten in a strong 16-man squad for next Wednesday's World Cup warm-up match against Italy in Rotterdam.

Queen's tourney

LONDON, Feb 19, (AP): John McEnroe has signed up to play in the pre-Wimbledon tennis tournament at Queen's Club this year for the first time since he insulted the club chairman's wife in 1984.

India, N. Districts draw

Manjrekar, Raman, Gursharan shine

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Feb 19, (Reuters): The loss of four wickets in the space of eight overs for just 15 runs wrecked India's bid for victory over Northern Districts today — their last fixture before the third Test beginning in Auckland on Thursday.

Set a target of 346 in just under five and a half hours, or a minimum of 79 overs following a declaration by the home side, India reached 190 with only one wicket lost and almost two hours remaining.

But at this point, Derek Beard broke a 130-run partnership between Workeri Raman and Sanjay Manjrekar, who scored 88 and 82 respectively and soon the Indians were reduced to 205 for five.

Not only were the two major contributors, who had provided momentum as well as substance, swept away in this collapse, but also Dilip Vengsarkar and Ajay Sharma, who had batted so successfully for the tourists' top score of 87 in the first innings.

Beard's dismissal of Raman, clean-bowled, was followed by former Test bowler Brendon Bracewell accounting for Manjrekar and Vengsarkar in a matter



Manjrekar: hit 82

ter of three balls and then Beard struck again to have Sharma caught in the slips.

The Indians immediately put up the shutters and Gursharan Singh, who remained unbeaten with 51, and acting captain Kiran More safely saw them to a draw.

Scoreboard
NORTHERN DISTRICTS first

innings 340 for six declared (K. Wealleans 101, G. Bradburn 80, D. White 55).

INDIA first innings 358 for six declared (A. Sharma 87, G. Singh 80, K. More 53 not out, S. Venkataraj 52 not out, W. Raman 51).

NORTHERN DISTRICTS second innings (overnight 308 for six) K. Wealleans c Chandrasekhar b Venkataraj 61

D. White c and b Venkataraj 58
C. Kuggeleijn c Gursharan Singh b Venkataraj 58
G. Bradburn b Venkataraj 50
M. Bailey lbw b Venkataraj 16
B. Young not out 9
D. Beard lbw b Wason 20
B. Bracewell not out 2
Extras (b-5, lb-8, w-1) 14
Total (for seven wickets declared) 361
Fall of wickets: 1-111 2-145 3-192 4-265 5-217 6-305
Did not bat: P. Neutze, S. Doull.
Bowling: A. Wason 23-4-68-2, V. Razdan 18-3-61-0, M. Venkataraj 31-6-124-2, S. Venkataraj 35-10-72-3, A. Sharma 4-0-16-0, K. More 1-0-7-0.
INDIA second innings:
W. Raman b Beard 88
V. Chandrasekhar run out 18
S. Manjrekar c Young b Bracewell 82
D. Vengsarkar c Young b Bracewell 4
Gursharan Singh not out 51
A. Sharma c Bradburn b Beard 1
K. More not out 9
Extras (b-5, lb-4, nb-3) 9
Total (for five wickets) 265
Fall of wickets: 1-60 2-190 3-194 4-201 5-205
Did not bat: S. Venkataraj, A. Wason, V. Razdan, M. Venkataraj.
Bowling: Beard 13-3-43-2, Bracewell 15-1-48-2 (3nb), Bradburn 18-2-64-0, Kuggeleijn 13-4-34-0, Neutze 16-3-69-0.
Result: match drawn.

Cope takes Daytona 500

DAYTONA, Beach, Florida Feb 19, (UPI): Derrick Cope, a non-winner in 66 previous races, sped by a faltering Dale Earnhardt on turn three of the final lap yesterday and posted a shocking victory in the 32nd running of the Daytona 500.

Cope, 31, who ran second for most of the day behind Earnhardt's dominating Chevrolet Lumina, was running second behind Earnhardt on the final lap at what had been the biggest and richest event. Earnhardt led down the backstretch, but cut a tyre going into turn three and moved him on the track.

That allowed Cope, followed by Terry Labonte and Bill Elliott, to take the lead, and the Spanaway, Wash., native kept his Chevrolet in front to take the checkered flag and register one of the biggest upsets in race history.

Labonte finished second in an Oldsmobile, followed by Elliott in a Ford, Ricky Rudd in a Chevrolet, Earnhardt, Bobby Hill in a Buick, and Rusty Wallace in a Pontiac. The race took 3 hours, 59 seconds. Cope averaged 165.71 mph (266.739 kph) and won \$188,150.

England meet Jamaica

KINGSTON, Feb 19, (Reuters): England named a near full-strength side for the three-day cricket match against Jamaica starting this evening to give players much-needed practice before the first Test against West Indies starting on Saturday.

With last week's two one-day internationals in Trinidad washed out, England have had little room to experiment and only pace bowler Gladstone Small of the likely Test side has been left out of the 12-man squad.

Fellow West India-born paceman Phillip DeFreitas, missing from the first one-day international side through injury and left out of the second in favour of Chris Lewis, gets a chance to stake his claim for a Test place.

Fast bowlers Devon Malcolm, left out of the one-day sides, and Angus Fraser are included in the squad.

Nasser Hussain, the 21-year-old middle-order batsman, has an opportunity to force his way into the side for his first cap after being preferred ahead of the more experienced Rob Bailey against Jamaica at Sabina Park, the venue for the Test match.

Bailey looked less impressive than Hussain in last month's match against the Leeward Islands, scoring one and 10 while Hussain, who was reprimanded for two displays of dissent, hit 42 and 10.

England manager Mickey Stewart said the team's morale was high despite the frustration of the two washed-out internationals.

Another source of likely disappointment was Jamaica's decision to leave out Test

bowlers Courtney Walsh and Patrick Patterson.

England (from): Graham Gooch (captain), Wayne Larkins, Alec Stewart, Allan Lamb, Robin Smith, Nasser Hussain, David Capel, Jack Russell, Phillip DeFreitas, Eddie Hemmings, Devon Malcolm, Angus Fraser.



Nasser Hussain

bowlers Courtney Walsh and Patrick Patterson.

England (from): Graham Gooch (captain), Wayne Larkins, Alec Stewart, Allan Lamb, Robin Smith, Nasser Hussain, David Capel, Jack Russell, Phillip DeFreitas, Eddie Hemmings, Devon Malcolm, Angus Fraser.

Two-goal Sanchez helps Real maintain lead

Wouters strikes twice as Ajax sink PSV

MADRID, Feb 19, (Reuters): Two goals by Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez yesterday were enough to end Real Madrid's nine seasons without a win at Malaga and maintain their six-point lead at the head of the Spanish First Division.

The League champions totally dominated the home team during the first half, Sanchez putting his team ahead after 21 minutes with a header from a cross by Rafael Gordillo. The Mexican extended the lead in the 42nd minute, connecting with a free kick from the right taken by Michel Castellet.

In the 46th minute of the first half which had time added on for injury, Malaga pulled one back. Antonio Alvarez finding the net from more than 30 metres. Though Malaga pressed hard in the last few minutes they could not get an equaliser.

With his two goals yesterday, Sanchez has now notched up 27 in the League.

Atletico Madrid pounced on the only defensive error committed by Real Valladolid to win their home game 1-0. The Madrid side sadly missed their Portuguese star Paulo Futre, out with a leg muscle injury, and had to struggle hard for their victory.

The winning goal came after 52 minutes when Brazilian striker Baltazar de Moraes nodded in after the ball bounced off the Valladolid crossbar.

Barcelona regained third place with a convincing 4-1 win at bottom-placed Madrid team Rayo Vallecano. The home team lost heart after a very superior Barcelona drilled in three goals in 16 minutes in the first half.

In the 16th minute Guillermo Amor passed to Aitor Beguiristain who found the net from outside the area, and in another



Romario goes flying after a tackle by Ajax' Richard Witschge. (Reuters wirephoto)

move involving Amor, Julio Salinas scored the second goal after 26 minutes. Six minutes later, Beguiristain was left unmarked and put his side three up.

Roberto Fernandez hit the fourth after 74 minutes and Rafa Bono scored a consolation goal for the home team with seven minutes left.

■ In Lisbon, Benfica's Brazilian imports kept the Portuguese soccer champions in touch with League leaders Porto yesterday with a 2-0 win at struggling Beira Mar.

Porto kept up the pace with a 4-1 home win over mid-table Chaves, but Guimaraes and Sporting in third and fourth place, could only draw.

Full-back Ricardo headed Benfica's first goal after 20 minutes from a free-kick by compatriot Valdo. A third Brazilian, Lima, settled the issue with the second a minute from time.

Lima took a pass from Swedish top goal-scorer Mats Magnusson — who for once failed to get his name on the scoresheet — and flicked the ball neatly over the advancing goalkeeper.

Benfica are two points behind Porto, who had yet another Brazilian, Geraldão, to thank for their 35th minute first goal against Chaves.

Chaves hit back minutes later but after the interval Belgian defender Stefan Demol put Porto ahead again with his eighth

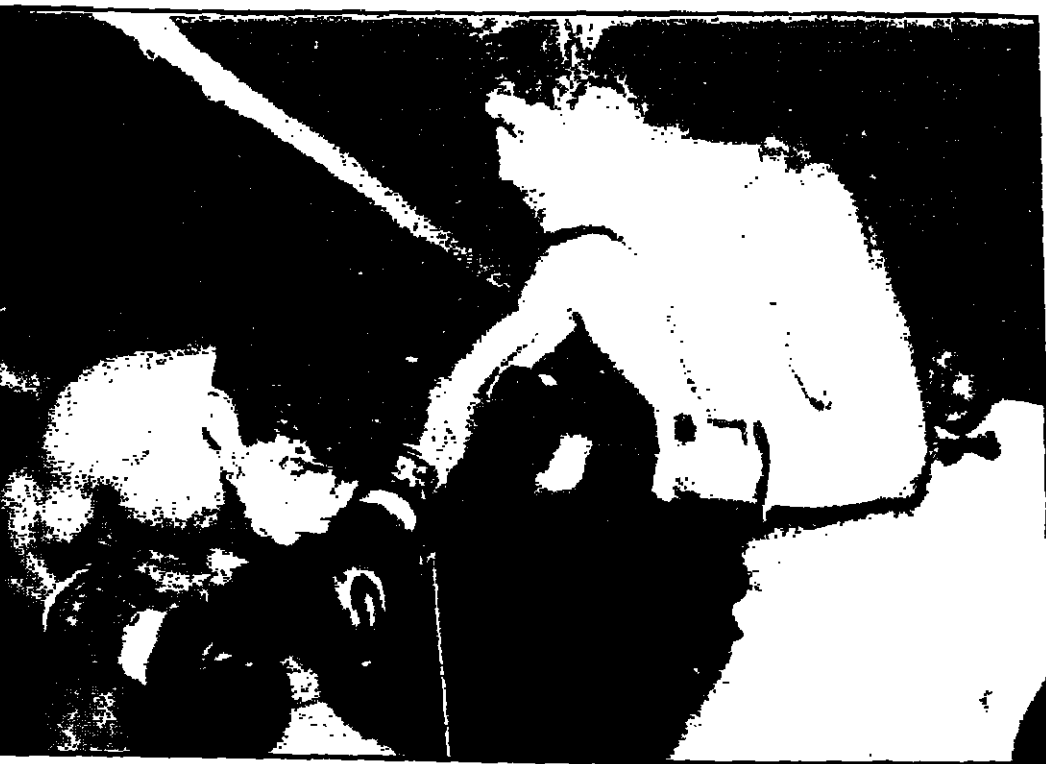
penalty of the season. Rui Aguas scored the other two goals.

Guimaraes were held to a goalless home draw by Maritimo and trail Benfica by three points.

Sporting, a point behind in fourth place, drew 1-1 yesterday in the Atlantic Island of Madeira with bottom-placed Nacional, who have yet to win a game this season.

Bulgarian striker Stoytcho Madenov took his tally for the season to 10 with the only goal of fifth-placed Semab's home win over Braga.

■ And in Amsterdam, Ajax Amsterdam captain Jan Wouters fired two second-half goals to lift his team to a thrilling 3-2 victory over Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven yesterday



Boxing title fight

Bolivian boxer Alberto Quilla (right) hits the face of Chilean Ricardo Toledo during their bout for the Latin American light junior weight boxing title on Sunday. Quilla defeated Toledo to take the crown. (Reuters wirephoto)

Douglas plans to take on Holyfield

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb 19, (Reuters): John Johnson, the manager of world heavyweight champion James "Buster" Douglas, said yesterday that former champion Mike Tyson will have to wait his turn as Douglas would defend his title first against number one contender Evander Holyfield.

Johnson said in a television interview that he had worked out a tentative deal for Douglas to defend against Holyfield, the former cruiserweight champion, in September. Financial terms had not yet been finalised, he added.

Douglas won the title with a 10th-round knockout of Tyson last week in Tokyo. The outcome was disputed soon after by promoter Don King who said Douglas had benefited from a long count when he was knocked down by Tyson in the eighth round.

The World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council both withheld official recognition of Douglas as champion following King's protest, but later upheld his victory.

Johnson suggested that the choice to fight Holyfield first was tied to bad feelings over King's post-fight manoeuvring.

"The situation was created by Don King's behaviour toward James Douglas after the fight," Johnson said.

"It's a dream fight for me," Douglas said in another television interview. "I've wanted to fight Evander because he was one of the guys that everybody looked upon as a true fighter and a great champion."

King reacted angrily.

"It's ludicrous," King said during his turn on television. "I can't understand how he is mouthing the words he is saying."

Kasparov draws opener

LINARES, Spain, Feb 19, (Reuters): Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov drew his first game in the eighth Linares Chess Tournament which began yesterday.

In a closely fought game in which both played kings, Kasparov defended well after being a pawn down to Boris Gelfand, also of the Soviet Union.

Former world champion Boris Spassky, a Soviet exile now playing for France, lost to Soviet grandmaster Artur Yusupov.

Other results:
Alexander Beliavsky (Soviet Union) defeated Boris Gulko (United States).

Valery Salov (Soviet Union) defeated Manuel Illesca (Spain).

Lajos Portisch (Hungary) defeated Ljubomir Ljubolevic (Yugoslavia).

Britain Nigel Short drew with last year's Linares winner Vasily Ivanchuk of the Soviet Union.

Kasparov is due to play short in the second round on Monday.

Other results:
Alexander Beliavsky (Soviet Union) defeated Boris Gulko (United States).

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Britain Nigel Short drew with last year's Linares winner Vasily Ivanchuk of the Soviet Union.

Bullets outplay Pacers

BALTIMORE, Feb 19, (AP): Ledell Eackles scored 13 of his 19 points in the final 16 minutes as the Washington Bullets beat the Indiana Pacers 116-97 yesterday in a fight-marred game in which two players were ejected.

Bernard King led the Bullets with 27 points in 27 minutes, before being ejected, along with Indiana's Chuck Person.

Supersonics 85, Hornets 70
Xavier McDaniel scored 20 points and sparked a third-quarter burst that helped the Seattle Supersonics to a 85-70 victory over the cold-shooting Charlotte Hornets yesterday.

Charlotte's output was the lowest in the franchise's brief history, falling below the 74 points the Hornets scored in a 20-point loss to Utah 10 days ago. Only a Brian Rowsom dunk with 14 seconds left prevented the Hornets from tying the New Jersey Nets for the lowest single-game total in the NBA this season.

Suns 131, Warriors 113
Tom Chambers scored a team-record 56 points and the Phoenix Suns ended Golden State's franchise-record 15-game home winning streak, 131-113 over the Warriors.

Chambers, whose previous career-high was 46 points, scored 40 in the first half, the most ever allowed by the Warriors. With Chamberlain held the previous high in a half against Warriors with 36 for Philadelphia on March 3, 1966.

Chambers made his first 10 shots from the field and finished 19-for-29. He made 16 of 19 foul shots. Karl Malone's 61 points for Utah against Milwaukee on Jan 27 were the most in the NBA this season.

Lakers 116, Celtics 118
Magic Johnson scored 12 of his 30 points in the third quarter and Byron Scott added eight of his 24 during a 2-7 span of the fourth period as the Los Angeles Lakers completed a two-game season sweep of the Boston Celtics with a 116-110 victory.

Reggie Lewis paced Boston with 24 points, while Kevin McHale had 21 and Larry Bird and Robert Parish added 20 apiece. James Worthy added 25 for the Lakers.

Results
Seattle 85 Charlotte 70
Washington 116 Indiana 97
Chicago 111 Milwaukee 88
L.A. Lakers 116 Boston 113
Phoenix 131 Golden State 113
Minnesota 108 Atlanta 98
Philadelphia 110 Portland 109

Kifco Trophy

KIFCO meet Evergreen in the final of Kifco Trophy on Friday, February 23, 1990 at KCL ground Sabah Al Salem Area. The tournament is being organised by KCL under the sponsorship of Kuwait International Finance Co.

The 45 over full day encounter between the two giants of Kuwait Cricket will be witnessed by Faisal Saud Al Fulajji, chairman Kifco, ambassadors of India, Pakistan, Thailand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka besides other Kuwaiti dignitaries.

Ashraf Khan, general manager, Kifco, and Chief Patron, Kuwait Cricket league will be the chief guest and will give away the prizes after the match.

Speedbird Trophy

THE squad of players to represent Pakistan to play Great Britain in the forthcoming Speedbird Trophy was announced yesterday.

The players have been selected as the best of those who play in the Hubara League at Ahmadi, and comprises of: Raees (captain), Anjad, Qaisar, Khalid, Zaqr, Maqbool Tariq, Asad Baig, Zaher Jr, Faisal, Riffat, Farhad, Asghar, and Asim.

The match will be played on February 25, at the KOC Grounds, Ahmadi, commencing at 9.30 and is scheduled for 45 overs per innings. Prizes to the winning team and awards for the Men of the Match will be presented, courtesy of Trevor Owen of British Airways.

Amir to open Gulf Cup soccer tournament today

THE Gulf Cup Soccer Championship starts this evening with the opening ceremonies at the Kazma Stadium at 3.20 pm. The championship will be opened by HH the Amir.

The Gulf Cup runs through March 9 starting tomorrow with the first match of the tournament between Kuwait and Bahrain. There will be no

matches today, only the opening ceremonies. The other countries taking part in the tournament are Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Iraq.

The Higher Organising Committee for the championship met yesterday under the chairmanship of Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, the president of the

Kuwait Football Association. Tournament director Mohammed Othman said that various reports and meetings agendas were discussed. The committee also discussed the arrangements for the opening ceremonies. Meanwhile, preparations are complete for this evening's ceremonies in which 15,500 students are expected to

take part. The students will perform an operetta along with seven other shows, to be performed with the help of banners and portraits relating the past and present achievements of the participating states. The songs of the operetta have been written by Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed and Kuwaiti song-writer Abdul Latif Al

Banyne. The operetta will be performed by Kuwait's prominent singers Abdul Karim Abdul Qadir and Abdullah Rewashed together with a schoolboys chorus. Most of the other students will display colourful portraits in the background that will concentrate on the

heritage of the participating countries. Many predictions have been made about the outcome of the tournament with all sides equally strong. UAE has already qualified for the World Cup finals to be held this year and is bringing a full-strength side to Kuwait. The side is treating this tournament as a

final selection process for the finals. Kuwait is one of the favourites and so is Iraq. Kuwait has the advantage of a home crowd. The Kuwaiti team has just come back from Cairo where it held its training camp for nearly a month. Whatever the outcome of the tournament, all the matches are expected to be very close.

Stars take it easy in Classic count down

DUBAI, Feb 19: Seve Ballesteros went fishing. Mark James got in a spot of sunbathing, while Howard Clark removed some of the winter rustiness from his swing on Sunday as more of Europe's leading golfers converged on Dubai.

Ballesteros, James and Clark, three of the eight Ryder Cup stars appearing in the Emirates Airline Desert Classic, were all in the mood for taking it easy in the build-up to the £275,000 tournament which starts on Thursday.

After completing filming for the instructional video he has been making at the Emirates Golf Club, Ballesteros stepped aboard a luxury cruiser for an afternoon fishing trip off the Jebel Ali coastline, courtesy of tournament organisers Karl Litten Overseas.

Since arriving in Dubai last Tuesday night, the Spanish superstar has spent around 40 hours in front of the cameras putting together, the video follow-up to his internationally successful book "Natural Golf".

While Ballesteros cruised out onto the Gulf, his faithful caddy, Englishman Ian Wright, paced the fairways at the Emirates course to prepare a yard-by-yard plan which will be vital to his employer's chances of capturing the £45,830 winner's cheque this week.

James, who flew into Dubai the previous evening with Emirates — the tournament sponsors — spent most of the day soaking up the sun beside his favourite pool at the Jebel Ali Hotel. The defending champion, inspired by Dubai's five-star facilities last year, will get down to serious practice for the tournament today (Monday).

While his two Ryder Cup team mates relaxed, Clark loosened up with a leisurely nine holes in the company of Welsh World Cup player Philip Parkin.

"I've hardly touched a club for six weeks, which is normal for me in winter," said Clark, who expects the Emirates Airline Desert Classic to produce some tremendous golf with Nick Faldo, Ronan Rafferty, Sam Torrance, Gordon Brand Jr and Christy O'Connor Jr completing the Ryder Cup line-up in a tournament which has also attracted prolific money-winner Mark McNulty.

"I'm not surprised there is such a strong field," said Clark. "Judging by popular opinion among the players, Dubai got the vote as the best venue on the European circuit last year. It has the best facilities and the best set up of the lot. It's one which others should be measured by. They would have to go a long way to beat this."

Cricket festival

MORNING STAR Cricketers are organising a cricket festival on the occasion of the Kuwait National Day on February 25 at the Ahmadi Grounds. The event will start at 9.00 am and all the top cricketers in Kuwait are taking part in the match. The names of the players will be announced tomorrow.

Lanka Colts reach President's Trophy final

LANKA COLTS (Trico) scored yet another comfortable victory over Lanka Lions in a President's Trophy semifinal cricket match, played at the EPI park on Friday morning.

Put in to bat, the Colts openers Nalaka and Ramzan started rather cautiously against the determined Lions' new ball attack of Dissanayake and Sujith who were backed up by some spirited fielding in the deep.

With the score on 26, the Colts lost 'burly' Ramzan for a patient 14 caught by Sujith at short extra cover while trying unsuccessfully to loft Dissanayake over the infield. With Chris joining the 'prolific' Nalaka, runs started to flow at the rate of just over 6 runs

per over and with the score at 79 for 2, the Colts appeared to be cruising towards another imposing total when a mistimed pull by Nalaka off Meraj found the safe hands of Sujith at short mid wicket.

Nalaka's contribution to the total was a well compiled 39 runs. An entertaining 100 run partnership for the third wicket between Chris and Senaka which averaged over 6.5 runs per over sealed any hopes that the Lions had of scoring a first time win over the Colts.

With Senaka out for a 'super' 45 and Ralph out to a beautiful one-handed diving catch by Dhammika it was left to Chris to power his way to a magnificent



Chris: 81 not out

unbeaten 81 runs. A knock full of drives, cuts and pulls the highlight of which was a towering 6 to mid-wicket off Chula. With

Roville fuelling Chris, 18 runs were scored off the final over bowled by Meraj to take the Colts to an unbeatable 191 for 4 wickets in 29 overs.

A valiant effort by skipper Perusinghe who scored a fluent 32 runs and a useful knock of 26 from Ranil was insufficient as the Colts bowlers tightened their grip on the same to have the Lions all out for 151 in 28.1 overs, leaving the Colts victorious by 40 runs. Lal and Ralph with figures of 2 for 17 and 2 for 30 off 6 overs each bowled magnificently and were well supported by Oliver, Nalaka, Solomons, Ramzan and Hiran, who shared the remaining wickets.

Eradicate apartheid: Sheikh Fahd

Respond to changes, says Samaranch

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

PRESIDENT of the International Olympic Committee Juan Antonio Samaranch yesterday called on the Olympic movement to respond to changes in South Africa with action which must have the backing of African national Olympic committees.

"It is time not only for words but also for deeds," he said at the opening of a special IOC anti-apartheid commission meeting in Kuwait.

"My message today... is, we have to move forward, but we have to move with the agreement of our African colleagues."

The IOC Apartheid and Olympic Commission is meeting in Kuwait to discuss sports relations with South Africa. The commissioners will also meet with representatives of a special UN committee against apartheid.

Samaranch gave no details about the type of action he proposed but Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, who spoke on behalf of Kuwait and the Olympic Council of Asia which he chairs, called for a more stringent action against apartheid. He indicated that no concessions should be made to



The meeting in progress. From left to right: Judge Mbaye, Samaranch, Sheikh Nasser and Sheikh Fahd

the South African regime before it completely dismantles apartheid.

"Nothing is acceptable than a total eradication of apartheid," insisted Sheikh Fahd.

Other speakers, including Kuwait's Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Sheikh Nasser Al Ahmed Al Sabah and the commission's president Judge

Keba Mbaye, denounced all forms of discrimination. Mbaye and other guests paid tribute to Kuwait's role in promotion of national and international sports and to its policy of equality and non-discrimination.

The president of the UN commission against apartheid presented to Sheikh Fahd as president of the Olympic Council

of Asia, and to the Olympic Committee of Kuwait the heads, a certificate of merit for actively campaigning against apartheid.

This is the second UN award for Sheikh Fahd within a week. Earlier he was presented with the Medal of Merit by Unesco for his role in promotion of sports and physical education.

South Africa was expelled

from the Olympic Committee in 1970 and most world sports bodies have banned the country and its athletes because of its policy of racial segregation. Last month, however, two representatives of the IOC commission met the South African Olympic officials in one of the first such contacts since the racially divided nation was expelled.

Christie selected, may not compete

LONDON, Feb 19, (Reuters): Olympic silver medalist Linford Christie was named today to compete for Britain in both the 60 and 200 metres at next month's European Indoor Athletics Championships, although he has said he may not run.

Christie won a 60 metres race in Cosford, England, on Saturday and said afterwards he was not yet decided whether to compete in the championships in Glasgow on March 3 and 4.

"I don't need the European indoor. My main aim this winter is to try to break the

world indoor 60 metres record for Britain and I'm not likely to do that in Glasgow, which is a slow track," he said.

"I intend to run in three of the next four indoor meetings but I haven't made up my mind yet about the European." He will make up his mind after training and racing on the Glasgow track this week.

Christie, 30 in April, has never run better than in recent weeks, as his 9.93 wind-assisted 100 metres in the recent Commonwealth Games in Auckland showed.

His immediate target is to break

American Lee McRae's world indoor 60 metres record of 6.50 seconds.

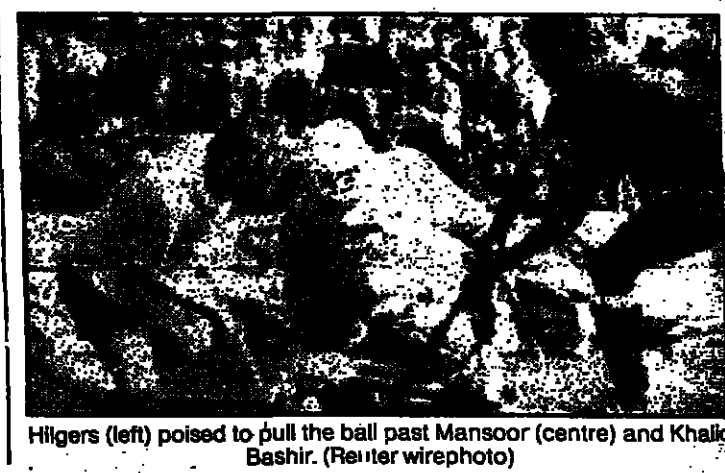
Britain named a squad of 34 — 17 men and 17 women — for the championships, their biggest-ever team for the meeting. More names will be added after next Friday's international against East Germany in Glasgow.

Hurdler Colin Jackson, sprinted John Regis and distance runner Liz McColgan, who have all won medals in major championships, have turned down places.

Soviet League

MOSCOW, Feb 19, (Reuters): Top Georgian soccer team Dynamo Tbilisi have defied a decision by the Transcaucasian republic's football federation to pull out of the Soviet League in the coming season. Tass news agency reported today.

Last week, the Georgian federation voted to take no part in the Soviet Soccer Championship starting next month on grounds that the recent outbreaks of violence across the country meant its team's safety at away matches could not be guaranteed.



Hilgers (left) poised to pull the ball past Mansoor (centre) and Khalid Bashir. (Reuters wirephoto)

W. Australia win easily

PERTH, Australia, Feb 19, (Reuters): Sheffield Shield champions Western Australia hammered Queensland by an innings and 177 runs to register their first victory this season in their four-day match which finished today.

Queensland capitulated in their second innings for 157 after Western Australia amassed 607 for eight for a first innings lead of 334.

Resuming at 34 for two, Queensland lost six wickets for just 61 runs in today's opening session to end any hopes of forcing a draw and claiming championship points.

A defiant last-wicket stand of 60 between teen-age fast bowler Michael Kasprowicz, who made 49, and Mark Topley, 17 not out, succeeded only in adding some respectability to the Queensland score.

Three Western Australia bowlers took three wickets apiece. Ken MacLay finishing with three for 22, Peter Caper with three for 23 and Chris Matthews three for 54.

Queensland captain Greg Ritchie was criticised by his opposite number, Wayne Andrews, for placing eight fielders on the off-side during part of Western Australia's innings.

"How can you expect to bowl with an eight-one field?" asked Andrews.

Taiwan blank Mauritius

Hong Kong beat Nepal

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Feb 19, (AP): Hong Kong advanced to the main draw of the pre-Thomas Cup qualifying round today by beating Nepal 5-0 in their second successive win.

Taiwan are also on the way to the main draw with their 5-0 victory over Mauritius 5-0. All they need is another win over Mexico tomorrow to confirm their place.

The top finishers in each of the three preliminary groups will make the main tournament beginning on Wednesday.

Led by number one singles Tse Bun, Hong Kong easily disposed of Nepal to emerge number one in the group.

Hong Kong beat Burma 5-0 yesterday in Group A. The team will be in the same pool as Indonesia, South Korea and India in Group Y for the next round.

In Group B, Taiwan, with two wins in their favour, are also all set to join Malaysia and Thailand in Group X. They should have no trouble against Mexico, which ousted Macau 5-0 today.

Australia and New Zealand will meet in a crucial tie later today to determine who will advance from Group C to Group X.

In the Uber Cup qualifying tournament, India too marched into the tournament proper. They outplayed Nepal 5-0 to top Group B and will now be in the same group as Indonesia, Thailand and New Zealand for the coming round.

The eight-day tournament began yesterday. Thirty countries are taking part in the championship qualifying rounds to vie for three places in the Thomas Cup and two places in the Uber Cup finals to be held in Japan from May 4-27.

The Thomas Cup is the symbol of world badminton supremacy, the Uber Cup is for women.

Three countries each will emerge from the two preliminaries to join defending champions China and Japan for the Thomas Cup finals in Japan.



Ayrton Senna

McLaren scale down car launch

LONDON, Feb 19, (Reuters): McLaren, the British-based Formula One motor racing team, decided today to cancel the public launch of their new car for fear of worsening the dispute between Ayrton Senna and the sport's governing body.

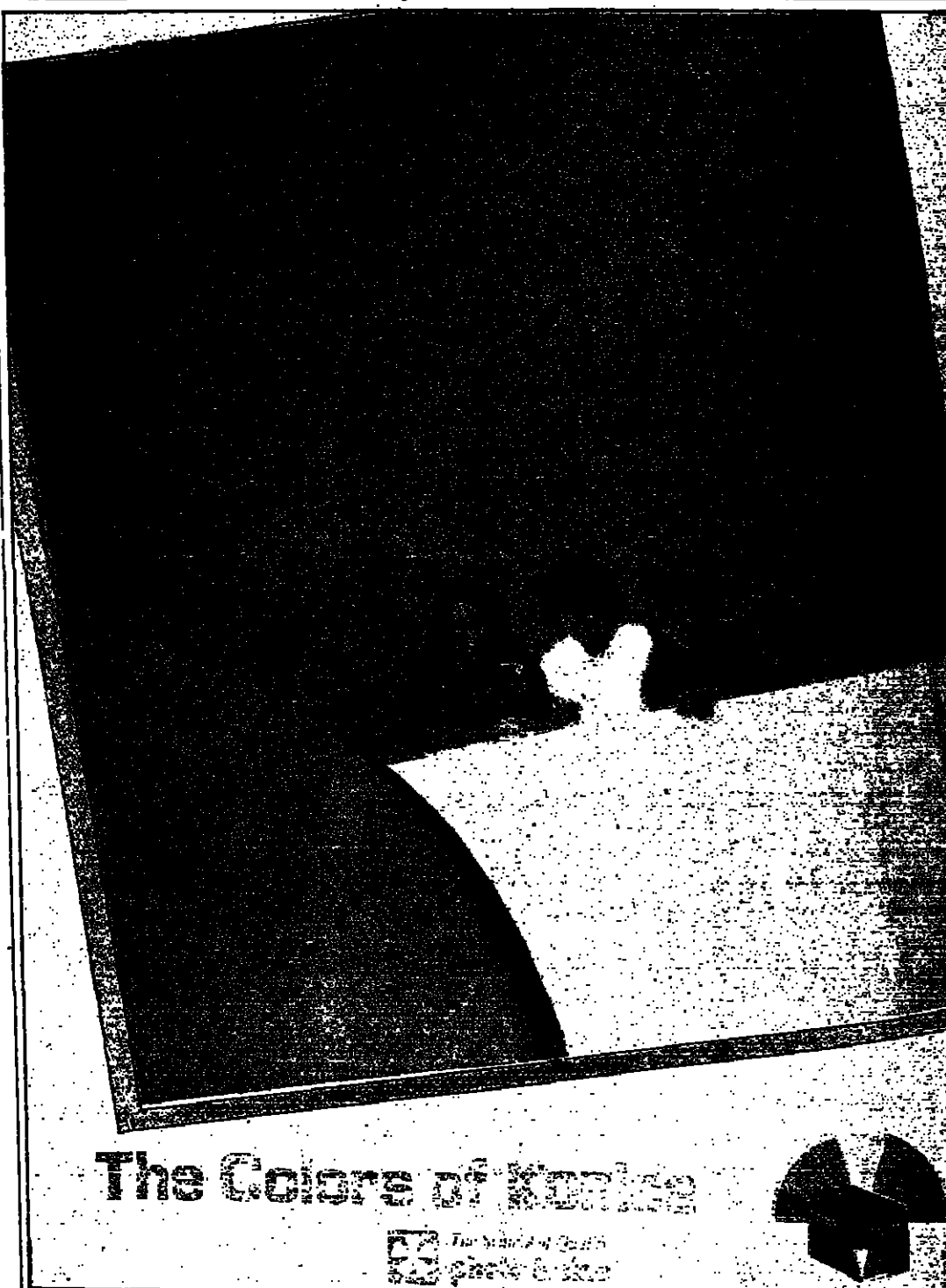
McLaren spokesman Peter Stoyner said a media launch attended by both the team's drivers, Brazilian Senna and Austrian Gerhard Berger, had originally been planned for Wednesday but the team had decided a low-profile, sponsors-only event was more appropriate.

"It's a shame, but we don't want to exacerbate the situation," said Stoyner.

Former world champion Senna, at odds with the International Motor Sports Federation (Fisa) since claiming last year's championship was rigged in favour of winner Alain Prost of France, was included in the official drivers' list for the 1990 season only after he wrote to Fisa retracting his comments.

Stoyner said both drivers would still be at Wednesday's private gathering, but added: "We didn't want the situation with Senna to override the launch of the car."

Fisa president Jean-Marie Balestre, in an interview with the French sports daily L'Equipe today, warned Senna to stay out of trouble before the season's first Grand Prix in Phoenix, Arizona, on March 11, or risk missing the season.



The Colors of McLaren

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